



MINUTES OF THE SANCOLD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12

**18:00 Thursday 26 November 2020
Via Zoom.**

1. Welcome and attendance

The Chairperson, Dr Quentin Shaw, welcomed all of the attendees and requested them to indicate their attendance in the Zoom chat box. The meeting was attended by 19 members. Four formal apologies had been received. The quorum requirements in the Constitution relate to voting which is not relevant here so quorum requirements were met.

Members present: Quentin Shaw, Louis Hattingh, Pierre Storey, David Cameron-Ellis, Henry-John Wright, Alan Chemaly, Johannes Fielies, Gerald de Jager, DJ Hagen, Michelle Blaeser, Kelvin Legge, Peter Pyke, Leila Veerapan-Lewis, Jannie Swarts, Louiza van Vuuren, Marco van Dijk, Robert Greyling, Vicci Schoeman and Ryan Cassels.

Apologies received: Andre Görgens, Luis Alberto Torres Cruz, Alan Shelly and Peter Townshend

2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (Approval and matters arising)

The draft minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting had been circulated to members of Manco who commented and then were to have been placed on the SANCOLD website. No further amendments were proposed. The minutes were approved, (proposed H-J Wright, seconded Q Shaw) and will be placed on the website. No issues were raised under Matters Arising.

3. SANCOLD Chairperson's Annual Report 2020

The Chairperson verbally presented the SANCOLD Annual Report for 2020. Activities for the year had been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic including cancellation of the SANCOLD 2020 Conference. The written report is recorded separately on the website.

Electronic voting was still open until 10 December for the two vacant positions on the SANCOLD Management Committee. Members are encouraged to cast their votes.

Details of new SANCOLD and ICOLD publications are placed in the SANCOLD Newsletters or else ICOLD publications can be accessed directly from the ICOLD website.

Due to COVID-19 the ICOLD 2020 Conference was postponed from April to September then November but will now only be a virtual General Assembly (GA) on 30 November.

The most important items for the GA are;

Two new Vice-presidents Bernard Reverchon (France) and Carlos Henrique Medeiros (Brazil) are to be elected (unopposed), Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Laos are to be elected as new members and voting for the 2024 Congress, either Chengdu (China) or Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

The programme for ICOLD is;

June 2021 Marseilles (France)

June 2022 Gothenburg (Sweden)

April 2023 New Delhi (India)

Congress 2024 either Chengdu or Addis Ababa

2025 Shiraz (Iran)

SANCOLD has been busy with an ongoing attempt to improve relations with DWS and to engage on issues such as DWS representatives on SANCOLD, skills transfer and issues around sustainability of the Dam Safety programme and APPs. A long discussion on lack of opportunities for younger people to get the required experience on dams required for APP appointment, followed. The Dam Safety Office has also recognised the problem and indicated that it would like to work with ECSA and SANCOLD to address the problem. The lack of new work on dams and financing of on-site training are issues to be considered. SANCOLD will renew their efforts to meet DWS Management to address common problems.

4. SANCOLD Website

The website under Webmaster, Mr Henry-John Wright, had experienced some problems but generally was functioning well and any issues could be brought to his attention at webmaster@sancold.org.za.

Webinar recording files are too big (approx. 250MB) to be placed on the website, but links can be provided to download them. Any queries can be forwarded to the Webmaster or Secretary.

5. Financial Matters

The SANCOLD Treasurer, Mr David Cameron-Ellis shared slides of the financial statements and explained reasons why the budgeted figures had been revised mainly due to COVID-19 impacts. The Treasurer expressed concern that collection of membership fees was lagging as a result, and urged all outstanding members to bring their dues up to date

There was no increase in membership fees for 2020/21, and it is likely that this will remain the case for 2021/22. (This will be discussed at the next EXCO meeting)

No invoices were sent to members more than two years in arrears and the income thus drops significantly.

The bulk of SANCOLD banking activity has been moved to Investec mainly due to excessive bank charges for items like proof of banking details which are requested by some organisations and are almost equivalent to the Individual annual membership fees per letter. There are still problems experienced where bank deposits have been made by members with no reference details to enable the correct account to be credited. Please ensure sufficient reference details are recorded on deposits which should reflect both Invoice number plus Membership number.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation for all the work that the Treasurer had spent on SANCOLD financial matters.

6. YPF Issues

YPF Chairperson Robert Greyling highlighted that the three technical webinars had been very successful and that the YPF intended to continue providing similar sessions in future. They had also embarked on a process to sort and index the technical papers which had been presented at SANCOLD Conferences. The YPF would also like to engage with any process to pair younger engineers with APPs to benefit from skills transfer.

7 Discussion

Further lengthy discussions on the sustainability of the APP programme took place. The point was made that DWS has no APPs for Category 3 dams (*post meeting – this statement was not correct*) and questioned what plan SANCOLD had to address the problem. The Chairperson explained that in 2017 SANCOLD had brought in the Chair of the British Dam Society and the Chair of the Ethiopian Dams Committee to workshop the issue which was an international problem and not limited to South Africa. A strategy had been drawn up but needed DWS participation and funding for any programme. SANCOLD had subsequently been trying to engage DWS to seek solutions.

Starting with inspection and construction of smaller dams could be used for gaining experience for APP training. A point was made that there is a lot of work available on inspections and other work that could be used for training but the issue was funding for the trainees. The independence of an APP on inspections was important, so outside appointments should be made – they could also then be used in training aspirant APPs. Some countries limit the number of consecutive appointments on a particular project for an APP to ensure fresh input. The quality of experience gained by aspirant APPs was important. Concern was expressed that acquiring an APP appointment was regarded as a status achieved rather than as a responsibility to society.

Taking this forward will require participation by many stakeholders in the industry, including the YPF. SANCOLD will inform the membership when progress is made so that a widely representative working group can be formed to address these issues.

8. Closure

The Chairperson concluded by mentioning that SANCOLD has continued to be active.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 19h34.