



SANCOLD NEWSLETTER

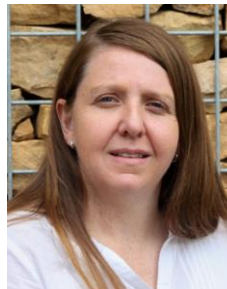
Newsletter of the South African National
Committee on Large Dams

The leading voice on dams in South Africa



2022 SANCOLD Annual Conference

SANCOLD hosted a successful annual conference from 9 to 11 November 2022. With 201 attendees, it was well attended and speaks to the need for an accessible platform to share ideas and learn from each other. The 26 technical papers produced testify to the health of our profession and our members' collective pursuit of excellence. Thank you to all who attended and to each of the authors and presenters who collectively contributed to the great success of the conference. A special word of thanks goes to the organising committee under the tireless leadership of Michelle Blaser, who had to do all the work in her own time as a volunteer. Well done! Take heart, Michelle will again lead the organising team for the 2023 conference, so we can all look forward to another excellent event to be hosted in November 2023.



Michelle Blaser

SANCOLD MANCO Member & 2022
Conference Coordinator



Dr Quentin Shaw
SANCOLD Chairperson
2017 - 2022

Wrapping Up Two Chairperson Terms

Since the 2022 conference and the last newsletter, Dr Quentin Shaw successfully completed his second term as SANCOLD Chairperson. During this term, he not only provided SANCOLD with excellent leadership, but he was also elected to the office of Vice President of ICOLD, with specific responsibility for the Africa Regional Club. Over many years Quentin worked hard to maintain the African relevance in the ICOLD family. He will be missed in his role as Chairperson of SANCOLD, but we wish him well in his endeavours within ICOLD. We have no doubt that Quentin has the passion and vision to elevate the African region within the ICOLD family. Quentin, thank you for your great ongoing input and support. We look forward to your presence and contributions for many years to come.



Passing of DJ Hagen

Sadly, we also experienced the premature loss of DJ Hagen. DJ, as he was affectionately known, was a highly valued and respected member of the South African dam fraternity. His contributions to the profession were immense. His expertise and experience filled an important and unique space in the industry. He provided mentorship and guidance to many young engineers on many aspects of the design of embankment dams and on dealing with potential embankment dam problems. The 7 papers contributed to the recent SANCOLD Conference by him, or younger people under his guidance, testify further to this fact. His enthusiasm will be long remembered. The tragic premature loss of his life, while doing an inspection in a manhole of an earth dam, serves to remind all of us of the need to take the utmost care in everything that we do as dam professionals. DJ, you will be sorely missed.



Mr DJ Hagen
Sorely missed and always to be remembered by SANCOLD and the SA Dam Industry

SANCOLD Scholarships
SANCOLD continues its scholarship program in 2023. There will be a call for applications for new scholarships circulated in November this year. If you are interested, watch this space.

2023 Management Committee (Manco)

The SANCOLD Manco has also seen a few changes. The new Manco, in its first meeting held on 28 February 2023, duly elected Henry-John Wright as the new SANCOLD Chairperson for a three-year term.



Mr Henry-John Wright
Newly Elected SANCOLD Chairperson 2023 - 2026

Henry-John is well known to most of you. He has almost two decades of experience in most aspects of dam engineering. Henry-John was elected to and has served on the SANCOLD Manco since 2015. He was part of the Local Organising Committee for the ICOLD 2016 conference held in Johannesburg. For many years he has served as the webmaster of SANCOLD. He is also the South African representative on the ICOLD Technical committee C: Hydraulics for Dams. He has all the requisite technical and institutional experience required to serve as Chairperson of ANCOLD. We wish him every success as Chairperson and look forward to him leading SANCOLD to new relevance in the African dam community.

The current Manco members are tabled below:

2023 Management Committee (Manco)

No	Name	Organisation	Term * of Office	Remarks
1	C Mahlabela	DWS (NWRI)	2025	Reserved position. Appointed from 2023
2	M Gxamza	DWS (P&I)	2025	Reserved position. Appointed from 2023
3	S Kelefetswe	SAICE	2023	Reserved position. Alternate M van Dijk appointed 2021
4	M van Dijk	USAf	2023	Reserved position. Nominated 2020
5	J du Plessis	Gibb	2025	Elected in 2022 for a 3-year term
6	C Starke	DJHA	2025	Elected in 2022 for a 3-year term. <35 years
7	K Naidoo	TCTA	2025	Elected in 2022 for a 3-year term
8	M Blaeser	ARQ	2025	Elected in 2022 for a 3-year term
9	R Greyling	Knight Piesold	2023	Elected in 2020 for a 3-year term. Vice Chairperson
10	J Zhang	Knight Piesold	2023	Elected in 2020 for a 3-year term <35 years
11	G Robertson	Pegasys	2024	Elected in 2021 for a 3-year term <35 years
12	A Coetzee	DWS	2024	2-year term <35 years
13	H-J Wright	ARQ	2024	Elected in 2021 for a 3-year term. Chairperson
14	G De Jager	Consultant	2023	Co-opted for instream flow requirements
15	D Grant-Stuart	Knight Piesold	2023	Co-opted for tailings dams
16	W Ramokopa	DWS	2023	Co-opted for APP training/legislation change
17	D Badenhorst	AECOM	2023	Co-opted for Institutional knowledge
18	L Furstenburg	Contract	2025	Externally appointed Secretary 2022
19	Q Shaw	ARQ	2023	Past Chairperson 1-year term
20	D Cameron-Ellis	ARQ	2023	Externally appointed Treasurer
21	C Gurira	SAIAE	-	Administrative Secretary
22	S Masikane	SAIAE	-	Assistant Administrative Secretary
23	B Oberholzer	DWS	2023	Externally appointed Webmaster

Technical Secretary Chat

One of the major contributions to the dam industry is the work that ICOLD produces through its various Technical committees. These committees are populated by volunteers that are put forward by the various national committees. While SANCOLD is actively represented in many of the committees and is also in the process of updating its representation.

So, it is not a dearth of noteworthy events and news that delayed issuing of this newsletter! It was me. In my role as Technical Secretary of SANCOLD I have been considering several issues, one being the relevance of this newsletter. I asked myself whether, and in what way, the newsletter contributes or can contribute to the relevance of SANCOLD in the South African and African dam community. It seemed to me that a simple list of historical news is perhaps not helpful. To test this view, I delayed the issue of the newsletter to see if anybody would query what had happened to it and when they could expect the next issue. As anticipated, nobody enquired. Nobody was waiting anxiously. Sad, but telling.

Accordingly, I believe we need to re-evaluate the format of the newsletter. We need to consider which issues the newsletter focuses on and who contributes to the thinking. The newsletter should be relevant and central to the issues that the industry faces at any one time. More people need to contribute to it. This will ensure that the newsletter becomes part of how SANCOLD functions and how and where it applies its resources. This might sound like a somewhat ambitious goal, but I believe that it can be achieved. Let me demonstrate by an example.

The dam industry in South Africa, in particular, and the world in general, is currently facing a major crisis with the dearth of suitably trained and experienced dam engineers. The situation, although long recognised as looming, has been turned into a real crisis by relatively recent changes in legislation with respect to the design and management of tailings dams. The crisis with water dams is also at hand. These people can't be trained overnight, and the training will never happen unless such training can somehow be funded and managed. Who should do this and what role can or should SANCOLD play in resolving this critical situation?

At the conference I discussed this issue with a few people and asked them whether they had an opinion. A few people responded to me in writing. Thank you so much for your efforts. However, in reviewing the contributions I quickly realised that they each were presented from a particular interest point, and that the contributions could not be collated to be presented as a SANCOLD institutional or members view without attracting considerable criticism. Although criticism is not necessarily bad, there is no point in expressing anything that does not contribute towards resolving the issue at hand. So, here is trail number two.

You are invited to submit a list of topics or subjects that you think are relevant and that would be useful to be debated in the forum of this newsletter. Clearly, the issue of the shortage of Approved Professional Persons for certain dam tasks is currently relevant and critical for the industry to address in a meaningful way. I'm sure there are other issues that should also be addressed. Please send your suggestions for topics/subjects in an email to secretary@sancold.org.za. In the subject line enter SANCOLD NEWSLETTER TOPICS. Failure to do this may lead to your submission being overlooked.

Secondly, you are invited to submit your views on one or more of the following questions regarding APPs for dams:

- Who should provide training for the next generation of dam engineers and APPs? If training is to be provided by various institutions, who should coordinate the efforts?
- How should dam engineers or APPs be accredited and by whom?
- Who should fund dam engineering training?
- What role should SANCOLD play in training or accreditation?

Please send your contributions to secretary@sancold.org.za. In the subject line enter SANCOLD DISCUSSION ON APPs. Failure to do this may lead to your submission being overlooked.

I thank you for your participation and hope that we can, with your assistance, make this newsletter interesting and relevant to the industry. Any additional suggestions and comments are welcome.

Have fun.

- Leon Furstenburg