



**MINUTES OF THE  
143<sup>rd</sup> SANCOLD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
At 15:00 on Tuesday 14 November 2023 held virtually.**

**Action**

**1. OPENING AND WELCOME**

The Chairperson, Henry-John Wright, opened the meeting and welcomed all.

**2. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND QUORUM**

**Attendance**

Comfort Mahlabela		CM
David Cameron-Ellis	Treasurer	DCE
Quentin Shaw	Past Chairperson	QS
Kogi Naidoo		KN
Robert Greyling		RG
Wally Ramokopa		WR
Francis Gibbons		FG
Marco Van Dijk		MVD
Andrew Copeland		Aco
Guy Robertson		GR
Sego Kelefetswe		SK
Ashley Coetzee		AC
Michelle Blaeser		MB
Cherie Starke		CS
Henry-John Wright	Chairperson	HJW
Janice Zhang		JZ
Mongezi Gxamza		MG
Danie Badenhorst		DB
Leon Furstenburg	Technical Secretary	TSec
Senzo Masikane	Admin Secretary	SM
Londiwe Mbambo	Administrative Assistant	LM

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Gerald de Jager (GdJ) and Jacques du Plessis (JdP).

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

**3. AGENDA (Amendments and Adoption)**

The agenda was adopted.

Proposer: RG and Seconder: JZ

#### 4. **MINUTES OF MC 142**

- 4.1 Amendments  
Add Andrew Copeland (AC) on the apologies.
- 4.2 Approval  
Minutes of MC 142 were approved.  
Proposer: DB and Seconder: RG
- 4.3 Matters arising from previous minutes.

#### 5. **Management Committee Matters**

##### 5.1 **Management Committee 2023**

HJW indicated that currently there are no changes to the Management Committee2023.

He further stated that two positions are up for elections (RG and JZ positions) and the call for the 2024 Management Committee nominations will go out today.  
[SM]

##### 5.2 **SANCOLD Award**

HJW stated that at the dinner on Thursday night, the Lifetime Award will be awarded to DJ Hagen and the wife will also be in attendance. No other nominations were received for awards.

##### 5.3 **Scholarships**

HJW stated that the Scholarship advertisement has been circulated to members and university contacts and is open to anyone who might benefit.

He further indicated that, once the applications are received, a committee to evaluate will be appointed and the decision will be made at the February 2024 Manco Meeting.

##### **Comments:**

GR inquired about the number of scholarships to be awarded.

HJW responded indicating that it is not yet finalised as the merits and budget have to be taken into consideration to determine how many students can be accommodated.

DCE clarified that previously the budget was not all used up as it is dependent on the number of students for progress. He further indicated it would be a good idea to determine the number of students so as to set the budget.

HJW inquired about the number of students from the past. DCE indicated that in 2022 there was a budget of R100 000 and this year we have a budget of R75 000.

DB indicated that previously there was a proposal to link with institutions to gain assistance with guidelines on this.

MVD commented indicating that the post graduate fees are not high, however, the funding received can also be utilised for accommodation, etc.

DCE further indicated that there is still money left over from the 2016 Conference, and the intention is to use over time to support the industry and proposed that the money is utilised to support via scholarship and set a budget for R75 000 x 2.

HJW responded stating that there are several initiatives lined up, the Mentorship Proposal and the Training Initiative which need funding and some of the funds can be allocated to these. HJW proposed to provisionally set the budget at a R100 000 which can be reviewed in February 2024 once budget is being drawn up.

JZ inquired how the Master's students and Post Graduate students are integrated into the industry we are working in. HJW clarified that the only requirement is to present at the SANCOLD conference and acknowledge SANCOLD on your dissertation or thesis but there is no particular integration.

#### **5.4 ECSA accreditation for CPD validation**

HJW noted that on the 18 October 2023, TSec, SM and himself had an audit with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) as SANCOLD is listed as a CPD Provider and can also provide accredited courses.

He indicated that SANCOLD passed the audit, however, a few amendments are required as this was the first audit. SM added that SANCOLD was provisionally approved, and they were required to submit additional documents and now they are awaiting a report from ECSA detailing the requirements moving forward.

#### **Comments:**

HJW inquired from timeline regarding the feedback from ECSA. SM noted there is no timeline and stated most Voluntary Associations are experiencing the same issues regarding turnaround time.

#### **5.5 Concept Marketing Strategy**

HJW highlighted some of the action items including LinkedIn, tracking more members, golf days, and outreach to Mining Houses, as discussed previously.

RG reported on Water Boards and Catchment Management Agencies stating that there have not been any developments since the last meeting. He further stated that general marketing included papers, presentations, and representation at ICOLD and Hydro-Africa conferences.

JZ reported back on the marketing strategy for LinkedIn and stated that AC has been assisting in managing the YPF LinkedIn page for SANCOLD and that all the webinars have been advertised and the recordings uploaded to YouTube.

She further noted that they have started an African Region Club (ARC) YPF page, which allows for a wider reach to African members from ICOLD. JZ added that she is also in contact with the ICOLD YPF where they are allowed to share SANCOLD events as well as the YPFs from France, India, and China for possible collaborations next year to increase SANCOLD's visibility.

RG indicated that the strategy to attract mining houses to join SANCOLD to increase the revenue stream is still ongoing and he will drive it in the new year with AC. **[RG,AC]**

AC commented on this stating that there might be a potential link if DWS requests the Tailings Dam to be registered as dams with a safety risk.

**Comments:**

QS stated that there is a lot of international interest both in Africa and in the development agencies with an interest in Africa. He indicated that he had the intention to speak with the Chinese, but hopefully, Michel Lino (ICOLD President) will speak to the Chinese at the RCC symposium in December 2023. He indicated that he would elaborate on it the next day in his presentation at the conference.

HJW thanked everyone for the feedback provided and indicated that further action is required in the new year.

## **6. SANCOLD Activities**

### **6.1 Programme 2023 and 2024**

HJW indicated that the programme for 2023 is almost complete and the outstanding items include the Conference taking place and the nominations for the Management Committee and the Our Dam Brochure.

With regards to the 2024 programme, HJW stated that it will include some of the activities still to be undertaken, the Mentorship Programme, the Training Proposal and Scholarships.

HJW indicated that he is open to receiving ideas for the 2024 Programme and these can be sent via email for consideration. **[All]**

### **6.2 SANCOLD Events**

MB reported back and indicated that there are 40 papers to present at the Conference tomorrow and an additional section KN will lead. She indicated that the Minister of Water and Sanitation has been secured to attend the meeting and will be giving the keynote address. MB further stated that the Conference had 172 participants.

**Comments:**

HJW thanked specifically WR, MG, and CM for their efforts in speaking to the Minister to attend as a keynote speaker.

RG inquired whether it has been finalised who will do the Minister's introduction. HJW requested that RG do the introduction.

WR requested HJW to share the Minister's Bio to ensure it is accurate and up to date. **[HJW]**

QS enquired about the Title of the Keynote address. HJW indicated that the Minister was provided with the general topic of the Conference, Dams - A Critical Resource in Time. WR responded to the inquiry by QS and stated that the Minister will be addressing in general based on the conference theme and he will address some of the issues encountered by the Government in terms of water resources and dams as well as future projects.

MG enquired about last year's numbers for the conference attendees comparatively to this year and the procedure for receiving the Minister for the conference. MB noted that the DWS sent a relatively low number of delegates this year vs last year, however, the attendance is in the same range as last year's attendance of 198.

HJW detailed the procedure indicating that the Minister is to arrive before 08h30 and would like to meet a few SANCOLD MANCO members, which will include RG, KN, MG and himself. A separate room will be arranged for that. The conference is to start at 08:30 and HJW will have an opening session and the Minister to address after followed by QS and then there will be a tea break and rest of sessions will follow.

MB enquired whether the Minister would be attending the whole session or would leave immediately after. WR indicated that the Minister had not stated when he will leave but he had stated he had other engagements.

RG queried the number of attendees for the site visits as Knight Piesold wishes to sponsor 50 high visibility vests. MB noted that previously it was in the 50 range, but it was indicated on the programme that the attendees are to bring their own PPE.

**6.3 National Flood Studies Programme (NFSP)**

MVD reported that the last workshop held was in May 2023 and the next one is scheduled for early February 2024. He indicated that funding has been applied for from the National Resource Foundation for regional funding to get International Keynote speakers to present. The Pretoria University also has the Flood Hydrology Course thereafter.

MVD presented a slide presentation for the NFSP and Position Paper on Extreme Floods for Dams, and he elaborated stating that it started in 2013 where a document

was submitted to the State to review the requirements for flood determination mechanisms in South Africa.

He added that over the years a lot of workshops were held, and funding was received from SANCOLD, WRC and students. There are 37 PhD students that have gone through the process developing new methods and papers have been produced in this field, however not necessarily related to SANCOLD but in the field of Flood Hydrology.

In closing, MVD requested input from the MANCO for the key aspects to address in the Position Paper and the objectives of the paper before submitting the paper.

**Comments:**

HJW stated that initially two letters were drafted to the Minister, one requesting a meeting for the Keynote Speaker and the second on the Flood Studies Programme requesting input. He is still hoping to discuss that with the Minister. He further indicated that the funding is normally done by the WRC, which is one avenue to be pursued further.

**[HJW]**

HJW proposed that the current Position Paper outline be shared with the MANCO to obtain input.

**[MVD]**

QS highlighted that currently there is no guidance on Extreme Floods for Dams and indicated it would have been better if SANCOLD and the Flood Studies team met up for a 2-day workshop to formulate a 4-page directive that provides guidance as currently the only guide available is the 1990/1 guide. He further referenced the recent Safety Evaluation Flood for a project in the Eastern Cape that turned out to be a flood with a 45million year return period.

He further proposed that SANCOLD produce a simplistic update that focuses on two or three principles and when the flood studies produce more comprehensive results this can be updated.

HJW supported QS's proposal and highlighted the Revised Regional Maximum Flood paper published in the SAICE Magazine in September 2023 and further added he had hoped to persuade one of the authors to attend the conference but unfortunately was unavailable. RG proposed that the revised RMF Journal be shared to MANCO.

**[HJW,SM]**

DCE highlighted that the funding has been the major concern and restriction and supported QS's suggestion to ensure our extreme floods are properly managed.

MVD noted that funding can be received, however, it is never related to the specific issue you wish to address. He further suggested that it is discussed with the Minister so that the funds are ringfenced for this programme.

#### 6.4 SANCOLD Training, APP development & dam safety initiatives

HWJ stated that comments and suggestions were received for the Training Initiative by JZ, RG, JdP and himself and added that the topics have been finalised. He further stated that the next step is to implement it in the new year and get dates and speakers for the Initiative. JZ and RG to assist.

[HWJ, JZ, RG]

#### 6.5 Mentorship Proposal

SK presented the Mentorship Proposal, stating it is an assistive programme that provides guidance to the youth to grow from one level of development to a meaningful level of development, assisting in the country's development of infrastructure development plus the operation and maintenance of which is one of the issues highlighted in the publication of the Infrastructure Report Cards detailing the stage of infrastructure in our country.

He further detailed that the Initiative is based on the premise that there are a lot of young people who want to be trained and are willing to develop, but unfortunately, the issue with pairing the ones who wish to train and those who are willing to train people has not been adequately done.

SK noted this as an opportunity for SANCOLD to start a programme that will intentionally work towards uplifting and upskilling the youth. Firstly, to be able to increase the database of APPs and secondly, to look into succession planning because other institutions are strict in terms of procurement, where they list what is required in terms of distribution, age and gender.

He further detailed the second aspect, which is a relational aspect, as he listed the participation of SANCOLD, the SAICE and the DWS, which will jointly address the matter using the resources available. He added that within these bodies, there will be a benefit for those wishing to volunteer their time to achieve CPD accreditation.

He noted this could be linked with the programme HJW is busy with because those who are trained can be included in the programme. Secondly, the knowledge that is prepared will be used in the future of SANCOLD.

#### Comments:

FG indicated he is involved in the portfolio of Continuing Education and Development at the Water Engineering Division at SAICE and will assist SK.

HJW enquired about the best way to action the programme. SK proposed to first look into the committee, with himself as part of the committee, and then have an identification of mentors and do the expression of interest for the youngsters who are interested. Once these have been identified, we can then formulate a schedule for the piloting of the programme.

[SK]

## **6.6 Young Persons Forum**

JZ indicated that several webinars were hosted this year compared to last year, and that there are more planned for next year with the other international YPFs.

## **6.7 Regional Initiative to address sub-Saharan Africa-specific topics**

QS stated that he will address these from a South African perspective because of the responsibility on South Africa to be more involved. Of the 27 ICOLD countries, South Africa is the single one that has a regular annual event, and the key issue is institutional competence.

He elaborated that what is required is to build the capacity of the institutions that plan, develop, operate, and maintain dams. The key aspect of this initiative is to group these institutions together and spread the institutional capacity of South Africa.

QS noted that it is a huge opportunity for SANCOLD to spread more influence in Africa by finding ways to be involved.

### **Comments:**

SK proposed that this be a future consideration while looking into ensuring that SANCOLD becomes Africa's leader, maybe at a later stage some of the events can be partially joined.

QS encouraged SANCOLD to have the next Hydro-African Event in Cape Town to attract a lot of African Delegates and proposed incorporating the SANCOLD event into Hydro-Africa, which would afford us the opportunity to market the SANCOLD event. He further added that due to Allison Bartle's history in delayed conferences, she would be open to assistance in organising and sharing the burden.

HJW noted that he approached her in Sweden in June 2023, and she typically rotates in-between Central/East, Southern and Western Africa, and next conference is scheduled to take place in West Africa, with the southern region to likely only hold the event in 2027.

## **6.8 Our Dam brochure**

HJW indicated that this is nearly complete, and he further thanked the gentlemen involved (WR, DB, CM and MG) in preparing the document and Kelvin Legge for driving it.

## **6.9 Discussions with new DWS Minister**

HJW reported back indicating that the letters were written and sent through to the Minister. He further indicated that there will be a short introduction tomorrow and hopefully there will be a dedicated session between the Minister and Top Management on what SANCOLD can do in the country.



**6.10 SANCOLD Position Paper/Guideline for Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP).**

GR reported back stating that a meeting was held with WR's team early in the year and there was interest from WR's team to get involved. WR added that it would be ideal to get this started in the new year.

**Comments:**

HJW enquired about the timelines as well as the team which will be involved. GR responded by indicating that, if possible, he would like to have informal discussions with the team if there are some present at the conference.

[GR]

**6.11 Tailings Dams with a Safety Risk**

HJW indicated that this was discussed previously, and there was a request for WR from the Dam Safety Office to engage on this matter further. He proposed that a small discussion be held between AC and WR to determine how SANCOLD can assist.

AC commented stating that in terms of the SANS update, there was a setback as SANS changed their minds on how we are to include the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM) in terms of how we align with it. This is currently being revised and if accepted, it will be released for public comment.

He further added that a discussion with DWS would be beneficial to determine how DWS would like to proceed.

**Comments:**

WR commented indicating that based on the definition in the Act, most Tailings Dams can be classified as Dams with a Safety Risk as the Act talks to the capability of the dam to store water. He further stated that more research will be done, and he will go into discussion with AC on ways to regulate Tailings Dams.

HJW inquired about the timeline. WR noted that initially the timeframe was till June 2023, however, it was not completed. He proposed setting the timeline to March 2024.

[WR/AC]

**6.12 Pollution Control Dams brochure**

HJW to get feedback from Kelvin Legge

[HJW]

**6.13 Guidelines for Freeboard Benchmarking**

HJW noted a follow up will be done with DB.

[HJW]

## 7. Financial Matters

DCE highlighted an error relating to the Treasury in the previous minutes, as the costing of the secretarial costs has increased. He further clarified that the second comment remains true, as it is valuable to have the Admin Secretary do the admin work for both the Treasurer and the Secretary.

[SM]

DCE detailed that SANCOLD has been operating as a PBO and was given a PBO number and indicated concern with reapplying for a Non-Profit Certificate with the Department of Social Development due to certain suggestions that are required to be put in the Constitution. He further indicated that SANCOLD's Constitution aligns with ICOLD as it is underpinned by the alliance with ICOLD, and he is not keen about making changes to the Constitution.

DCE further reported that the audit had not been finalised due to a misunderstanding regarding the PCO for last year and he clarified that the figures in the report are from the XeroBooks but are not finalised.

### Comments:

HJW noted that the PBO Certificate has been outstanding for some time as the PCO Certificate is fairly old and there is no record in the archives. He further indicated that there might be changes in the legislation which will require SANCOLD to make changes, but this will be determined once the due diligence checks have been completed.

[DCE]

## 8. ICOLD Activities

AC provided feedback regarding the INCOLD Conference taking place next year in India, stating there will be 3-4 days' worth of short courses and trainings relating to Tailings Dams.

## 9. General

### 10. Date and Venue of the next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for 13 Feb 2024. Same time (09:00 to 12:00). Venue to be confirmed.

### 11. Closure

The meeting closed at 16:50.