



MINUTES OF THE SANCOLD ANNUAL MEETING 14

17:30 Wednesday 15 November 2023
The Balalaika Hotel, Sandton

1. Welcome and Attendance

The Chairperson, Mr Henry-John Wright, welcomed all attendees and requested them to sign the attendance register. The meeting was attended by 44 members and 2 observers. One formal apology was received.

2. Agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted.

3. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

The draft minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting had been circulated to members of Manco for comment prior to them being placed on the SANCOLD website. No further amendments were proposed at the meeting. The minutes were approved and will be placed on the website. No issues were raised under Matters Arising.

4. SANCOLD Chairperson's Annual Report 2023

The Chairperson verbally presented the SANCOLD Annual Report for 2023. The written report is recorded separately on the website.

In 2023 SANCOLD remained active through its working groups, various YPF projects and actions, the preparation of a new dam publication, the organising of the current conference and participation in ICOLD.

He reported that the sharing of secretarial services with the SA Institution of Agricultural Engineers is working well despite some staff changes at SAIAE. The arrangement, with a technical secretary (to maintain the ICOLD and SANCOLD corporate experience) and an administrative secretary, has streamlined some of the SANCOLD systems and is proving to be affordable.

Two positions are due for re-election on SANCOLD Manco by the end of 2023, one of which is specifically reserved for young members. Ballot papers will be distributed early in December for voting to be completed by 15 December.

5. SANCOLD Website

The website is functioning well. Feedback or suggestions can be provided to webmaster@sancold.org.za.

6. Financial Matters

The Chairperson presented the highlights of the financial report as part of his annual report.

The 2023 audit had not been finalised at the time of the conference, so the financials presented were provisional. The 2022 conference profit was lower than anticipated because of lower attendance figures. It is anticipated that the situation in 2023 will improve.

Membership numbers have reduced slightly because of ongoing termination of members with long outstanding fees. As a result of the cleaning up of the database there is now good payment from members. It is anticipated that membership will continue to grow as the lingering effects of Covid dissipate.

An Income/Expenditure summary was presented. SANCOLD remains a going concern.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Treasurer for his diligent oversight of SANCOLD financial matters.

7. YPF Issues

The YPF remains active and presented 4 webinars by various members on several topics during 2023. One webinar was co-hosted by UCOLD YPF. Attendance at the webinars is not limited to YPF members. The YPF remain available to arrange webinars for members who wish to present their work to a wider audience. The YPF has played an active role in the African YPF sharing between various African countries. They also host the SANCOLD LinkedIn site.

8. Discussion

The chairperson opened the floor for questions and/or discussion and the following matters were raised:

Alan Chemaly noted that young engineers were generally aware of various engineering disciplines such as roads, structures and the like. They were however generally unaware of dams and the role that they play in society. He expressed the opinion that SANCOLD needs to consider doing a roadshow to various institutions to raise the level of awareness of dams.

Danie Badenhorst expressed the opinion that SANCOLD MANCO should liaise more closely with DWS to cooperate on dam engineering. The chairperson indicated that such discussions were already scheduled.

Louis Hattingh highlighted the need for SANCOLD to:

- Position paper on floods for dams, including a review of the recently published RMF paper in the September 2023 SAICE Journal.
- Reconsider the approach to seismic assessments for dams.
- Raise the awareness of decision makers for dam safety management.

Alan Chemaly, as a member of the ECSA committee for APPs, expressed the view that young engineers should be allowed to do dam safety assessments for small dams of say 8 m high or less. Older engineers should afford the young engineers such opportunities for training,

K Nkwada enquired whether SANCOLD was active in expanding ICOLD membership in Africa. Quentin Shaw responded by highlighting the human tendency to focus on local issues before considering wider

issues. He expressed the opinion that DWS should liaise more closely with institutions outside South Africa to share South African expertise more widely.

K Nkwada asked whether SANCOLD can or should review the performance of its members in light of ongoing performance issues at selected sites. Wally Ramokopa agreed indicating that there are now increasing applications from people trying to fix problems. Quentin Shaw remarked that some of these issues are a direct result of:

- The application of European engineering standards and approaches in Africa, and
- Cost competitiveness which drives down the quality of engineering in general and severely limits training worldwide.

He further remarked that he believed that every dam project should have a panel of experts overseeing the work.

Jan Brink expressed the opinion that SANCOLD should not focus on finding faults. SANCOLD should focus on lessons learned. Alan Chemaly indicated that he had previously made extensive presentations on lessons learned. This can again be done through the YPF.

Ryan Cassels enquired whether Prof Kijko could be considered for ICOLD Technical Committee B (Seismic Aspects of Dam Design) and himself as a corresponding member since he is Committee A (Committee on Computational Aspects of Analysis and Design of Dams) representative. An application will be made.

Mongezi Gxamza enquired on the status of the position paper on APP experience and training requirements that according to his recollection, SANCOLD had indicated in one of the recent past conferences that it would produce for discussion with the Department, based on the fact that SA is no longer building dams on the large scale as it did in the past – thus affecting experience and training of young APPs and dam engineers at present. In that paper, according to him, SANCOLD was to offer suggestions to the Department including on adjusting/adapting some of the APP requirements to suit the present environment. In discussion, it was suggested that this would require a legislative change that would resort under the DSO.

9. Closure

The Chairperson thanked all for their attendance and contributions to help make SANCOLD a vibrant organisation. He closed the meeting at 18h35.