



# MINUTES OF THE SANCOLD ANNUAL MEETING 15

**17:05 Wednesday 6 November 2024**  
**The Wanderers Club, Sandton**

## **1. Welcome and Attendance**

The Chairperson, Dr Henry-John Wright, welcomed all attendees and requested them to sign the attendance register. The meeting was attended by 45 members and 3 observers. No formal apologies were received.

## **2. Agenda**

The proposed agenda was accepted.

## **3. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting**

The draft minutes of the 2023 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. Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Alan Chemaly and accepted by Gerald De Jager. The approved minutes will be placed on the website. No issues were raised under Matters Arising.

## **4. SANCOLD Chairperson's Annual Report 2024**

The Chairperson verbally presented the SANCOLD Annual Report for 2024. The written report is recorded separately on the website.

In 2024 SANCOLD remained active through its working groups, various YPF projects and actions, the organising of the current conference, the hosting of an International Specialist Symposium on aspects of tailings dam design under the auspices of ICOLD as well as participation in ICOLD annual meeting and activities.

Three positions are due for re-election on SANCOLD Manco by the end of 2024, one of which is specifically reserved for young members. A call for nominations will be put out in November and ballot papers will be distributed early in December for voting to be completed by 15 December 2024.

## **5. SANCOLD Website**

The website was updated in 2024, and the membership section was expanded by adding previous conference proceedings and enabling password reset by members directly. Feedback or suggestions can be provided to [webmaster@sancold.org.za](mailto: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 still provisional. The delay in the audit was because of financials for the 2022 conference being prepared late by the previous PCO. Manco is committed to ensure that this situation will not re-occur.

Membership numbers have increased slightly, and it is hoped that this trend will continue 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**

A Young Engineers' Forum in ICOLD was formed in Lucerne in 2012. SANCOLD formed a similar Forum in South Africa which liaises with the ICOLD Forum. Ashley Coetzee is the current Chairperson. Currently, there are over 50 members of the Forum. The Forum launched the SANCOLD YPF LinkedIn Page in 2024. The page now has over 400 followers from across the world. The YPF hosted seven training webinars in 2024.

## **8. Discussion**

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

Alan Chemaly enquired as to the status of updating of SANCOLD Guideline on the Risk Analysis of Dams (Report 5). The Chairperson acknowledged that various bulletins needed updating and that SANCOLD has limited manpower. Danie Badenhorst expressed the opinion that SANCOLD needs champions to drive various SANCOLD initiatives. The organisation relies on voluntary inputs by individuals and people have limited time to donate. SANCOLD needs volunteers.

Michelle Blaeser emphasised that the SANCOLD conference cannot be successful without the submission of papers by diverse authors. She urged all to consider contributing papers to future conferences.

Gerald De Jager said that SANCOLD is doing something great. The Conference is running well, and the contributions are good. Danie Badenhorst supported this notion. He noted the attendance of various new and young people, many of whom appear not to be members of SANCOLD. He requested that MANCO investigate this observation. It was suggested that ways of increasing SANCOLD membership be added to the MANCO agenda for action.

Benjamin Oberholzer expressed the opinion that many of the corporate members of SANCOLD are not sharing the SANCOLD information with relevant people in their organisations. Louis Hattingh shared the same view and requested that SANCOLD should investigate distribution lists in the corporate member organisations.

Edwin Lillie requested case studies on underwater repairs for use in ICOLD Committee M on the Operation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Dams. Can all who have relevant information please contact Edwin Lillie.

Alan Chemaly noted that piano key weirs are widely used in Africa but that there are no suitable guidelines for stilling basin design for these weirs. Henry-John Wright said that there has been some research work done on this in Switzerland. Alan Chemaly then recommended that SANCOLD should advertise for a bursar to do some research on this aspect.

## **9. Closure**

The Chairperson thanked all for their attendance and contributions to help make SANCOLD a vibrant organisation. He closed the meeting at 17h45.