



**MINUTES OF THE  
146<sup>th</sup> SANCOLD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
At 09:00 on Tuesday 19 November 2024 held virtually.**

**Action**

**1. OPENING AND WELCOME**

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

**2. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND QUORUM**

**Attendance**

|                      |                          |      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Henry-John Wright    | Chairperson              | HJW  |
| Robert Greyling      | Vice-Chairperson         | RG   |
| Leon Furstenburg     | Technical Secretary      | TSec |
| Ashley Coetzee       |                          | AC   |
| Benjamin Oberholzer  |                          | BO   |
| Cherie Starke        |                          | CS   |
| Comfort Mahlabela    |                          | CM   |
| Danie Badenhorst     |                          | DB   |
| David Cameron-Ellis  | Treasurer                | DCE  |
| Gerald de Jager      |                          | GdJ  |
| Guy Robertson        |                          | GR   |
| Jacques du Plessis   |                          | JdP  |
| Janice Zhang         |                          | JZ   |
| Kogi Naidoo          |                          | KN   |
| Michelle Blaeser     |                          | MB   |
| Mongezi Gxamza       |                          | MG   |
| Segomotso Kelefetswe |                          | SK   |
| Senzo Masikane       | Admin Secretary          | SM   |
| Londiwe Mbambo       | Administrative Assistant | LM   |

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Andrew Copeland (ACo), Francis Gibbons (FG), Quentin Shaw (QS) and Wally Ramokopa (WR).

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

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

The addition of 5.5 – Technical Secretary Post.

The addition of 6.13 – SANCOLD Scholarship.

The agenda was adopted.

## **4. MINUTES OF MC 144**

### **4.1 Amendments**

Amendments were made in accordance with MG's comments and or edits. These included:

- Apologies list: DCE abbreviation to be added.
- Item 5.3: Remove proposed in second sentence and add full stop after SANCOLD.
- Item 6.2: Capital M for Minister and capital D for Department
- Item 6.6.1: Remove the word has.
- Item 6.6.2: Replace first words to read JZ mentioned that she had been...
- Item 6.10: Sentence to read Aco indicated that no progress....
- Item 6.1: Remove the words with SAJ
- Item 8.21: HJW proposed to have James Cullis be the representative

### **4.2 Approval**

Proposer: KN and Seconder: DB.

### **4.3 Matters arising from previous minutes**

Most matters arising are agenda items and will be handled as such.

## **5 Management Committee Matters**

### **5.1 Management Committee 2024**

A bulk email was circulated to the SANCOLD members pertaining to the three (3) SANCOLD Management Committee (MANCO) positions up for nomination at the end of the current term. SM to circulate a reminder email during the course of the week.

TSec reported that he had not received feedback or a response from WR regarding his activity schedule. TSec and HJW to follow up on WR for his submission.

**[TSec, HJW, SM]**

### **5.2 SANCOLD Proposed Portfolios**

HJW presented a document which outlined proposed SANCOLD portfolios, indicating the responsible person and the supporting persons. The objective of the portfolio document is to ensure that the workload or functions are shared appropriately across the SANCOLD MANCO and that they are driven by key personnel.

RG supported the idea of portfolio allocation, as it ties in with the marketing efforts of SANCOLD.

TSec also supported the initiative and indicated that names need to be allocated to the respective portfolios. The objective would be to have MANCO report on progress made between MANCO meetings.

JdP indicated that site visits are dependent on the location that they will be, and this then determines who the responsible person is. HJW noted that a MANCO coordinator would be required.

SM to circulate the document to MANCO for further information and review.

[HJW, SM]

### **5.3 ECSA Accreditation for CPD Validation**

SM reported that an Audit and Review Outcome Letter was submitted to ECSA on 21 November 2024 in relation to the ECSA CPD Provider audit, which took place on 18 October 2023. This is an attempt to make ECSA reconsider a few of their audit recommendations, as SANCOLD is already compliant with them.

CDP accreditation has been received for the concluded SANCOLD events for the year 2024.

[SM]

### **5.4 Concept Marketing Strategy**

TSec reported that a comment was made during the SANCOLD Annual General Meeting, which took place during the recently concluded Conference, about the need to target the representatives of companies that are not already SANCOLD Corporate members. Furthermore, a query was raised indicating that the Corporate member representatives are not filtering down or disseminating the relevant and necessary SANCOLD information to the rest of the company or organisation. A suggestion is to have a database of sub-corporate members to ensure the information reaches its intended audience.

AC indicated that the SANCOLD LinkedIn page had significantly assisted in the marketing efforts of SANCOLD and mentioned that she is welcome to take any suggestions on how to further improve the page and overall marketing efforts.

DB mentioned that there is a need to invite attending non-members at the Conference to become SANCOLD members, as this will see to the growth of the SANCOLD membership.

BO mentioned the possibility of utilising CPD points as a driving point to attract new members.

### **5.5 Technical Secretary Post**

HJW indicated that Leon Furstenburg (Current TSec) will be retiring at the end of the year. This led to SANCOLD advertising the post to the general public. To date,

only one (1) application was received from Riaz Suleman, a part-time student at the University of Witwatersrand. SM to send the application to TSec for review.

HJW, SM and LM to preside over the TSec duties in the interim until a more permanent solution or plan is identified and implemented.

HJW to contact Jaap Kroon, as DB and TSec indicated that he would be a suitable candidate for the post.

HJW and DCE thanked Leon Furstenburg for his service to SANCOLD.

**[HJW, SM, LM]**

## **6 SANCOLD Activities**

### **6.1 Programme 2025**

HJW indicated that the SANCOLD 2025 Programme will be finalised and distributed in February 2025.

**[HJW, SM]**

### **6.2 SANCOLD Events**

#### **6.2.1 SANCOLD Annual Conference 2024**

MB provided feedback on the proceedings of the recently concluded Conference:

- The Conference was a success, as there were a recorded 240 attendees across the duration of the Conference.
- 120 attendees attended the Tailings Dam Workshop.
- A request was made to have more frequent Tailings Dam Workshops.
- The finances are yet to be finalised, and they will be reported once finalised, but a healthy profit is projected to be made.

HJW thanked and congratulated MB and everyone involved in the successful planning and execution of the Conference.

GR indicated the need to get additional people or speakers to submit papers to maintain the value of the Conference from a technical point of view and asked MANCO to provide suggestions on how to go about doing so.

HJW mentioned or suggested identifying and targeting previous speakers and advertising the Conference at a much earlier stage.

TSec suggested the possibility of allocating additional CPD points to authors or speakers, as this would entice them to submit papers.

DB indicated the need to get DWS delegates to submit papers in future.

JdP suggested having a champion in each company to encourage their colleagues to submit papers.

DCE confirmed that authors can claim CPD points for writing Conference papers.

[HJW, MG, CM]

### **6.2.2 Webinars**

AC indicated that she has already received interest from two (2) potential webinar presenters.

[AC]

### **6.2.3 Site Visits**

HJW mentioned a list that identifies potential site visits for the year 2025, citing that more leg work is to be done in terms of numbers and overall planning.

DCE suggested targeting a site visit for the Conference and a site visit mid-year 2025. Interest would have to be gauged from members.

JdP expressed fears pertaining to the members' schedules, which could limit interest. He suggested linking a webinar with the selected site visit.

MB stressed that the main concern with the site visits matter is that the majority of the sites are outside Gauteng, making it difficult for attendees or delegates to commit.

GR mentioned that it is essential to know what the 'breakeven' numbers would be to make pursuing the site visit a worthwhile endeavour.

MG indicated that he is in support of site visits being planned but advised against having too many site visits. He suggested the pursuit of one or two site visits a year. Furthermore, he mentioned that it would be beneficial to have the site visits confirmed at an early stage, as this assists with the travel planning process from DWS's side.

[HJW, MB]

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

MVD is currently working on the Position Paper draft. HJW to follow up on a possible due date for him to finalise it.

[MVD, HJW]

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

HJW mentioned that a meeting was held on 6 September 2024 pertaining to the APP Training initiative. The next objective is to finalise and advertise the rest of the items.

[HJW, RG]

#### **6.5 Mentorship Proposal**

SK reported back on the progress made in this portfolio:

- An expression of interest document or email was circulated to the SANCOLD members.
- 27 mentors and 20 mentees were identified, respectively.
- The possibility of incorporating the portfolio with agenda item 6.4 (Training, APP development and dam initiatives).
- The next step is to start the process of pairing mentors and mentees.
- As the program progresses, feedback will be noted and possibly utilised to market SANCOLD and the Mentorship program.

[SK, GdJ, JZ, AC, CS]

#### **6.6 Young Persons Forum**

##### **6.6.1 Lecture program**

AC indicated that we need to change the heading 6.6.1 to 'Webinar or Training Program'.

AC reported that there has been a significant increase in the number of followers on the LinkedIn page, as the number is sitting at 665.

[SM, AC]

##### **6.6.2 University Students and International YPF Engagement**

JZ mentioned that her engagements with the lecturer from the University of Witwatersrand have been put on hold due to their busy schedules. The discussion to have the lecturer give a talk on dams and hydropower will resume in early 2025.

JZ indicated that the ICOLDI YPF engagement is proving to be difficult at this moment in time as the previous chairpersons of the various YPF committees have since left their positions. This has led to difficulties in securing international webinars as she isn't too familiar with the new chairpersons, but she will endeavour to secure or finalise the webinars.

[JZ]

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

QS to provide feedback at the next MANCO meeting.

[QS]

## **6.8 Discussions with DWS Minister**

HJW reiterated that there is still a need to secure an audience with the DWS Minister. MG indicated that a discussion would take place outside of the current MANCO meeting.

[HJW, CM, MG]

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

GR mentioned that they had proceeded to see whether there were enough interested parties to volunteer to commence with the position paper. The objective was to assess or identify what is already in place, what is being utilised elsewhere, conduct a literature review and determine whether there are any gaps in knowledge or is what is in place adequate.

Various firms were approached to see whether there were available interns who would assist, but unfortunately, there was minimal response. A dedicated presentation at the Conference was arranged. GR concluded that there is not sufficient need for a position paper. DB noted that the RSA Dam Safety Regulations cover the topic and templates of what works are available. DB further noted gaps when working with WB/FEMA guidelines. The recommendation is not to compile a position paper but rather to ensure practitioners know what works in RSA and elsewhere.

## **6.10 Tailings Dams with a Safety Risk**

ACo and WR to provide feedback or report on progress made at the next MANCO meeting.

[Aco, WR]

## **6.11 Pollution Control Dams brochure**

HJW reported that he had received an updated brochure from Kelvin Legge and his team. The relevant images are to be included first before the brochure can be circulated for review.

HJW to request images from the industry. Once obtained and included in the brochure, it will be circulated to MANCO and published in 2025.

[HJW]

## **6.12 Guidelines for Freeboard Benchmarking**

DB provided a summary of the progress that has been made pertaining to the portfolio, and it was as follows:

- With the assistance of his fellow team members, calculations have been made on Freeboard Benchmarking in conjunction with the 2011 Guidelines. It is yet to be completed.
- It will be tested once DB designs a particular dam.
- A proposal to be submitted once the above is finalised (June 2025).

**[DB]**

## **6.13 SANCOLD Scholarship**

HJW indicated that the scholarship recipient, Janneke Groenewald, submitted a progress report and provided feedback or progress during the SANCOLD Conference. She has one (1) year remaining.

TSec added that she has progressed well in her studies, as her results are good, and she will be completing her degree in October 2025. It was proposed that SANCOLD continue to support her until she completes her degree in 2025. This will take the form of her receiving the same amount she received in 2024 for 2025.

MANCO voted in favour of the proposal, as such, she will be supported in the year 2025.

SM to notify her.

**[TSec, SM]**

# **7 Financial Matters**

## **7.1 Budget 2024**

The agenda item was not reported on.

## **7.2 Membership Matters**

DCE reported that there is a number of members who are not settling their membership fees. LM has assisted greatly in sending out invoices.

DCE indicated that there would be a need for the MANCO to invoke the clauses in the Membership Charter, which deals with the termination of membership.

DCE mentioned that the matter of membership fees (Increase) will be dealt with or finalised in February 2025.

**[DCE, LM]**

### **7.3 Audit**

DCE reported that the SANCOLD 2022 Conference financials have been finalised in correspondence with the auditors, which has resulted in SANCOLD being tax-compliant. Auditors are currently working on the 2024 tax year, which will be completed by the end of the year.

DCE stressed concerns over the lack of oversight of the SANCOLD Conference financial items. DCE requested for the abovementioned systems to be in place before engagements with the PCO commence.

HJW proposed for a SANCOLD Conference Committee to be formed, as this will greatly assist MB going forward. This Committee will then provide the financial oversight that has been mentioned or requested by DCE.

MB indicated that she is happy with the current PCO and proposed that SANCOLD continue with them.

DCE mentioned the need to start Conference planning at a much earlier stage to avoid any potential VAT law breaches. It needs to be ensured that the PCO is registered with the CSD.

DCE highlighted the need for all MANCO members to contribute towards the functioning of the organisation. Furthermore, he mentioned that each MANCO member needs to be part or involved in one of the SANCOLD portfolios. KN and JZ indicated that they are willing to be part of the SANCOLD Conference Committee.

**[DCE, HJW, MB]**

## **8 ICOLD Activities**

### **8.1 ICOLD Circular Letters**

The last two (2) Circular Letters that were released related to new draft bulletins, pertaining to Environmental, driven by KN and Extreme Floods, where Professor Jeff Smithers has made inputs.

Feedback will be provided to Central Office before the due date.

**[HJW, TSec]**

### **8.2 ICOLD Issues**

#### **8.2.1 Representation of ICOLD Committees**

The new members of the respective ICOLD Committees, James Cullis and Edwin Lillie, have been inducted into their respective Committees, which are now functioning.

#### **8.2.2 Important Dates**

Once available, they will be circulated to MANCO.

[SM]

### **8.2.3 ICOLD India Attendance**

The South African representation at the ICOLD India Congress was less than normal.

The attendance and the budget pertaining to the next ICOLD Congress must be finalised, as it will take place in May 2025.

[HJW, TSec]

## **9 General**

### **9.1 Can we do more?**

HJW has drafted a questionnaire which will be circulated to the SANCOLD members once completed. The questionnaire aims to determine which areas SANCOLD needs to focus on with regard to improving its service offering to the members.

[HJW, SM]

HJW mentioned that the SANCOLD Guidelines need to be updated.

DCE stressed the importance of members (MANCO and SANCOLD) being more involved in terms of contributions, not only to SANCOLD but to the dam industry as a whole.

JZ suggested working closely with other ICOLD National Committees, as this has proven to be a viable avenue for the YPF. This will assist in creating and solidifying connections with other National Committees, which could potentially lead to the updating of Guidelines and other collaborative causes.

TSec suggested that in future, when electing co-opted MANCO members, it would be of benefit to request them to indicate how they would contribute to the Committee, if that is satisfactory, then they would be elected.

DCE suggested the possibility of informing members what it means and what is required to be part of the SANCOLD MANCO, this could be done during Conferences.

### **9.2 Other**

GR noted that he will not rerun for MANCO. He completed two terms. HJW thanked GR for his contribution.

RG suggested that we must look at areas to improve. DB noted it is a privilege that we can be involved in SANCOLD.

LF thanked all for his 30 month involvement.

**10 Date and Venue of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled for 19 February 2025. The venue is to be confirmed.

**11 Closure**

The meeting closed at 11:45.