SANCOLD

MINUTES OF THE 147th SANCOLD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
At 09:00 on Wednesday 19 February 2025 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
Benjamin Oberholzer		BO
Cherie Starke		CS
Comfort Mahlabela		CM
Danie Badenhorst		DB
David Cameron-Ellis	Treasurer	DCE
Gerald de Jager		GdJ
Janice Zhang		JZ
Kogi Naidoo		KN
Michelle Blaeser		MB
Rudolf van Wyk		RvW
Senzo Masikane	Admin Secretary	SM
Londiwe Mbambo	Administrative Assistant	LM

Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrew Copeland (ACo), Ashley Coetzee (AC), Francis Gibbons (FG), Jacques du Plessis (JdP), Mongezi Gxamza (MG), Robert Greyling (RG) and Segomotso Kelefetswe (SK).

Quorum

A quorum was present.

3. AGENDA (Amendments and Adoption)

The addition of 6.2.4 – Technical Material Update.
The addition of 7.3 – General Finance.

The agenda was adopted.

4. MINUTES OF MC 144

4.1 Amendments

No amendments were received.

4.2 Approval

Proposer: DB and Seconder: JZ.

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

Rudolf van Wyk was elected in the position that was previously filled by Guy Robertson. HJW and AC were reelected.

HJW and SM to check the SAICE and USAF representatives regarding their respective reserved positions, as they are up for renewal.

HJW had previously requested feedback reports from the co-opted members. The reports provided a platform for them to report back on what they have done and to indicate their willingness to continue as co-opted MANCO members. HJW confirmed that 3 of the 4 current co-opted members provided the feedback reports. Aco, GdJ and DB made submissions.

GdJ and DB presented their reports and confirmed their willingness to be part of the MANCO. HJW noted the details provided by Aco, GdJ and DB were reelected as co-opted MANCO members.

HJW to follow up on WR. [Post-meeting note: WR noted that due to various other commitments, he is not available to be co-opted. He remains the TC member on the World Register for Dams and can assist with DWS-related matters when required.]

DCE indicated that he is still willing to continue as the SANCOLD Treasurer. MANCO voted in favour of DCE continuing as Treasurer.

[HJW, SM]

5.2 SANCOLD Proposed Portfolios

The SANCOLD Portfolios Document was presented, with a few MANCO members having already allocated themselves some functions. The purpose of the portfolios is to ensure that the workload or functions are shared appropriately across the SANCOLD MANCO and that they are driven by key personnel.

JZ and KN indicated that they are willing to be part of the Conference Organising team.

[JZ, KN]

The Associate Studies, Working Groups and Publications are to be consolidated into one portfolio.

AC to be the person responsible for the Webinars and LinkedIn portfolio.

[AC]

RvW and JZ to assist with the Africa Interactions portfolio.

[RvW, JZ]

GdJ to be the responsible person for the Training portfolio, with RvW being the support person.

[GdJ, RvW]

Some of the portfolios are to be relooked and either reworded or removed.

DCE and HJW mentioned the importance of having a marketing champion for SANCOLD, someone who will promote SANCOLD on a broader scale.

[HJW, SM]

5.3 ECSA Accreditation for CPD Validation

SM mentioned that SANCOLD received Certificates for Recognition as a Licensed Body [until 2027] and Recognition as a Voluntary Association [until 2030].

SM to follow up with ECSA regarding the submitted Audit and Review Outcome Letter, which looks to make ECSA reconsider a few of their audit recommendations, as SANCOLD is already compliant with them.

[SM]

5.4 Concept Marketing Strategy

SM and HJW to work on a database of sub-corporate members to ensure the information reaches its intended audience. This ensures that the relevant and necessary SANCOLD information is filtered or disseminated to the rest of the respective companies or organisations.

Follow up on the matter of inviting non-members at Conferences to become SANCOLD members, as this will see to the growth of the SANCOLD membership.

[HJW, SM, All]

5.5 Technical Secretary Post

The TSec post is still vacant. In the interim, the SAIAE personnel (SM and LM) will assist HJW in presiding over the TSec duties.

The SANCOLD Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with the SAIAE

Executive Committee to discuss the services rendered to SANCOLD by SAIAE and to discuss the additional workload that SM and LM will be doing. The meeting is set to take place in early March.

DB nominated WR and Isa Thompson to be approached for the post. DCE suggested checking with Kelvin Legge, Duncan Grant-Stuart. DB to contact WR and HJW other retired professionals and provide feedback on their responses/interest.

[HJW, SM, LM]

6 SANCOLD Activities

6.1 Programme 2025

The 2025 SANCOLD Programme was distributed prior to the meeting and was presented during the meeting by HJW. It is divided into local and international activities.

HJW to discuss with QS the possibility of co-opting him onto MANCO to be the driver of the African Regional Club initiative. DCE suggested writing to QS to find out how SANCOLD can assist or provide specific support.

[HJW]

DCE suggested that we get Lesotho involved, either as a subsidiary or an association with SANCOLD. This is with the aim of broadening SANCOLD's influence in the dam industry.

DB mentioned the possibility of inviting Tente Tenta to be a keynote speaker at this year's SANCOLD Conference and to get the Lesotho contingent involved. KN and DB to engage with Tente Tenta and look to get more involvement from Southern Africa, starting with Lesotho.

[DB, KN]

RvW suggested that another way to get more African countries involved would be through the International Hydropower Association (IHA). HJW and RvW to follow up with Anton-Louis Olivier regarding the matter.

[HJW, RvW]

JZ made mention of a list that contains all of the African countries that is part of the African Region Club. It would be beneficial to make use of the list if SANCOLD wishes to approach people. JZ to obtain the updated list from QS.

[JZ]

GdJ suggested that Mentorship and Training be condensed into one item, with the aim of facilitating actions in a more coordinated way.

[HJW, SK]

6.2 SANCOLD Events

6.2.1 SANCOLD Annual Conference 2025

MB indicated that they are in communication with the current Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) to try and secure a venue for the 2025 SANCOLD Annual Conference. Once the venue has been secured, the Committee will circulate it and the call for abstracts announcement to the MANCO for approval before public circulation.

[MB, JZ, KN]

6.2.2 Webinars

JZ indicated that the YPF Committee will schedule a meeting and outline what the plan is for the year regarding the webinars.

GdJ mentioned that AC has made initial contact with potential webinar speakers/presenters.

[JZ, AC, CS]

6.2.3 Site Visits

HJW mentioned that there has not been much progress in securing or arranging a site visit based on the list that identifies potential site visits, which was previously circulated. One of the challenges identified was finding a site visit that was within close proximity of the Conference venue, with the suggestion of having it during the course of the year.

Based on the SANCOLD Member Questionnaire that was sent out earlier in January 2025, site visits were not one of the priority items on the list, but it was suggested that it still be looked into by the MANCO.

[HJW, MB]

6.2.4 Technical Material Update

HJW indicated that there is still a need for SANCOLD to have updated documents or material for information sharing, as this was one of the priority items on the SANCOLD Member Questionnaire.

RG, in a meeting with HJW a week earlier, suggested that the MANCO narrows its focus more to 1 or 2 topics at a time. This is to avoid overextension of the Committees' resources. The goal would be to focus on current or relevant topics/papers.

DB mentioned the importance of having a champion for respective portfolios or topics, as this will assist in getting things done.

[HJW]

6.2 National Flood Studies Programme (NFSP)

HJW indicated that it has been a challenge to get a hold of MVD, as he is now on sabbatical leave. HJW to continue following up on him.

[MVD, HJW]

6.3 SANCOLD Training, APP development & dam safety initiatives

RvW indicated that he had engaged MVD, who ran the Hydropower Course in 2024 for the University of Pretoria (UP). The latter mentioned he is open to working with SANCOLD going forward, with the aim to develop a training course, run over 2 days. The next step is to secure a venue that will host the training course.

JZ indicated that she is available to assist RvW.

RvW suggested that a poll be made and circulated to the members to gauge what they want from the training.

DB suggested that it would be beneficial to merge the training with the SANCOLD Conference, as it is administratively efficient to use the PCO for both events.

DCE suggested that one of the days be put over a Saturday, as it will be less of a burden to the employers.

[RvW, JZ]

6.4 Mentorship and Training Programme

SM provided feedback on the portfolio by stating:

- The mentors and mentees have been paired based on their Engineering field.
- The next step is to send out a letter to the interested mentors and mentees, which will provide them with an update on the programme.
- The objective is to have the programme start in June 2025.

[SK, GdJ, JZ, AC, CS, SM]

6.5 Young Persons Forum

Webinar or Training Program

JZ reiterated that the Committee will schedule a meeting for them to discuss the plans they have for the year.

[AC, JZ, CS]

6.5.4 University Students and International YPF Engagement

JZ indicated that she had engaged a lecturer from the University of Witwatersrand with the intention of having the lecturer give a talk on dams and hydropower. A suitable date still needs to be set.

JZ mentioned that it is proving difficult to engage with the ICOLD YPF as there has been a lot of change in the various YPF committees in terms of the chairpersons.

JZ is to be nominated to be on the ICOLD YPF Board by SANCOLD. SANCOLD endorsed her nomination.

[JZ]

6.6 Regional Initiative to address sub-Saharan Africa-specific topics

HJW to contact QS to provide feedback at the next MANCO meeting.

[HJW, QS]

6.7 Discussions with DWS Minister

CM confirmed that it would be possible to have a discussion outside of the current MANCO meeting regarding the matter of securing an audience with the DWS Minister. A date and time need to be set up.

DB committed to engaging with WR regarding the matter.

[HJW, DB, WR, CM, MG]

6.8 SANCOLD Position Paper/Guideline for Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP)

It was noted that due to the lack of a champion for the portfolio, the item is to be removed from the Agenda going forward.

[SM]

6.9 Tailings Dams with a Safety Risk

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

[Aco, WR]

6.10 Pollution Control Dams brochure

HJW to continue working with Kelvin Legge regarding the brochure. More images are to be obtained as per a reviewer’s recommendation. HJW to send it to GdJ for input on sizing.

[HJW]

6.11 Guidelines for Freeboard Benchmarking

DB committed to finalising the proposal by July 2025. Will provide further feedback when available.

[DB]

6.12 SANCOLD Scholarship

SM confirmed that he had notified the Scholarship recipient, Ms Janneke Groenewald. Her progress and submissions are to be monitored.

[SM]

7 Financial Matters

7.1 Budget 2025

DCE presented the 2025 SANCOLD budget to the MANCO. Conference and Course income exceeded expectations the previous year, which bodes well for SANCOLD.

DCE proposed an annual membership fee increase for both Individual and Corporate members.

MANCO approved both the budget and the annual membership fee increase.

7.2 Membership Matters

DCE noted that the Central Supplier Database (CSD) updates remain problematic. SANCOLD struggles to get payments from DWS or the Western Cape Department of Agriculture if SANCOLD is not current on the CSD.

Members are beginning to settle their invoices at a much better rate.

[DCE, LM]

7.3 Audit

DCE reported that the 2023 audit was signed off. The 2024 audit/financials have been received, but the auditor has applied tax despite SANCOLD being an NPO.

DCE and MB to strengthen the financial reporting, approvals and expenditure of Conferences going forward.

DCE mentioned the looming threat of SANCOLD being over the threshold of VAT. SARS has not increased the threshold (Turnover being less than 1 million Rand). The implications are that SANCOLD will be taxed more, which will, in turn, affect membership fees. DCE to manage the matter with the auditors.

[DCE, HJW, MB]

8 ICOLD Activities

8.1 ICOLD Circular Letters

SM has sent out Circular Letters which pertain to the Programme for the year and draft bulletins that were circulated for comments.

The ICOLD President and Africa Regional Club Vice-President positions are up for election. Once all the names/nominees have been finalised, they are to be circulated to MANCO for voting in May 2025.

[HJW, SM]

8.2 ICOLD Issues

8.2.1.1 Representation of ICOLD Committees

HJW indicated that the Committees are functioning well. There is a need to develop better mechanisms for providing feedback to our members and where contributions can be solicited from our general members.

8.2.2 Important Dates

The ICOLD China event is in May 2025. Input from MANCO on voting at the General Assembly will be circulated.

[HJW, SM]

9 General

9.1 Can we do more?

SM circulated a questionnaire to the SANCOLD members with the aim of determining which areas SANCOLD needs to focus on with regard to improving its service offering to the members. The findings, in the form of rankings, were presented to the MANCO.

SANCOLD to align its service offerings with the findings of the questionnaire.

GdJ suggested that SANCOLD utilises the opportunity of having webinars that are well attended to possibly develop a training course based on the interest of the attendees. The suggestion is to be relayed to the Webinar Committee.

[HJW, SM]

9.2 Other

KN indicated that there are names of members on the ICOLD Technical Teams that are no longer involved and suggested that it be updated. HJW to facilitate the updating process.

BO suggested someone who could possibly be the new Technical Secretary, but they are outside of the country. HJW approved for them to be formally approached and sent the necessary documents for consideration.

[HJW, BO]

10 Date and Venue of the next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for 11 June 2025. The venue is to be confirmed.

11 Closure

The meeting closed at 11:10.