



**MINUTES OF THE  
148<sup>th</sup> SANCOLD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
At 09:00 on Wednesday 09 July 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  |
| Comfort Mahlabela    |                          | CM  |
| Danie Badenhorst     |                          | DB  |
| David Cameron-Ellis  | Treasurer                | DCE |
| Janice Zhang         |                          | JZ  |
| Ashley Coetzee       |                          | AC  |
| Mongezi Gxamza       |                          | MG  |
| Segomotso Kelefetswe |                          | SK  |
| 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), Francis Gibbons (FG), Jacques du Plessis (JdP), Robert Greyling (RG), Cherie Starke (CS), Gerald de Jager (GdJ) and Quentin Shaw (QS).

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

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

The addition of 6.13 – Dam Safety Risk Guidelines.

The agenda was adopted.

## **4. MINUTES OF MC 147**

### **4.1 Amendments**

Page 1: Rectify agenda point 4 - Minutes of MC 146.

Page 4: Rectify the spelling of Mr. Tente Tente.

Page 2: MC 2025 and not 2024.

### **4.2 Approval**

Proposer: RvW and Seconder: AC.

### **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 2025**

SK confirmed that SAICE have endorsed him to remain on the MANCO as a representative and he mentioned that the term is renewed annually.

HJW and SM to follow up on MVD regarding the USAF term.

[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. Refer to the attached table.

RvW mentioned the possibility of broadening interaction between SANCOLD and other African dam owners. This would involve providing them with information to be included in their conference brochures and possibly attending the conference(s) but obtaining funding would be paramount.

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

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.

SANCOLD's status as an ECSA Service Provider was renewed.

HJW indicated that he engaged with ECSA regarding other training companies not utilising accredited people to facilitate courses in the dam industry. ECSA have requested an internal reviewer as part of them (ECSA) assessing the matter.

HJW to confirm if there is formal confirmation from ECSA citing the value of being a professionally registered SANCOLD member and obtaining a CPD point for that, similar as SAICE membership.

SM to get SACNASP accreditation for the SANCOLD Hydropower Course and Conference.

**[SM, HJW]**

### **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. There is a steady growth of membership, as there have been twenty-nine (29) new members this year so far.

SM and HJW to obtain the list of non-members from last year's SANCOLD Conference from the PCO, with the objective of enticing them to become SANCOLD members.

AC and SM to work on the possibility of accrediting the ongoing YPF webinars for CPD points.

**[HJW, AC, SM, All]**

## 5.5 Technical Secretary Post

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

HJW contacted a list of possible people to take on the role, noting there was little to no interest to date.

HJW requested that MANCO provide the names of retired SANCOLD members.

[All]

## 6 SANCOLD Activities

### 6.1 Programme 2025

HJW contacted QS to obtain information on the Africa VP role. When finishing as ICOLD VP, QS anticipate working with the next VP on the *ICOLD Africa Initiative*. He sees it as the following:

- To push for Panel of Experts with contractual power on all projects in Africa.
- To push for capacity building on all projects in Africa.
- To compile evaluation reports on all Contractors on project completion, with a score that gets used in subsequent tender evaluations.

He further stated that capacity building is not about sending a young professional on a course, but rather about building dam developers as Employers who can manage the development and implementation of large projects and with whom engineers (young and old) want to be employed. There were many such organisations in Africa. Now there are very few and no way to rebuild them without a positive intervention.

HJW to confirm QS's interest in being co-opted onto the SANCOLD MANCO.

[HJW]

HJW indicated that he met up with Anton-Louis Olivier to touch base and to integrate the collaboration with the International Hydropower Association (IHA) into the dam industry.

JZ indicated that, as part of the ICOLD YPF initiatives, they need to organise an Africa webinar, with the idea of getting IHA involved as one of the speakers. It would possibly be a SANCOLD-ICOLD collaboration webinar. Anton-Louis Olivier to be involved if it aligns with the session topics of the webinar. JZ to submit an outline of the webinar.

JZ provided feedback pertaining to the African countries that are part of the African Region Club. She indicated that Uganda a starting up their membership programme. Ghana is also interested in starting its own YPF membership initiative. ICOLD is following up on all the African countries that are part of ICOLD, with the aim of updating the database and providing the necessary support.

[JZ]

## **6.2 SANCOLD Events**

### **6.2.1 SANCOLD Annual Conference 2025**

MB provided an update on the progress of the Conference planning:

- Forty-four (44) abstracts were received.
- The venue has been confirmed (Indaba Hotel), and a deposit to be paid.
- The Committee approached Tente Tente to be a keynote speaker.
- Abstracts to be reviewed and communicated with authors within a week.

KN confirmed that Tente Tente will be the keynote speaker.

AC and MB to follow up with PCO regarding the social event.

[MB, JZ, KN, AC]

RvW mentioned that arrangements for the SANCOLD Hydropower Course are on track.

[RvW]

### **6.2.2 Webinars**

AC mentioned that four (4) webinars have been completed to date and that the plan is to facilitate four (4) more for the rest of 2025.

[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 site visits spread 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]

#### **6.2.4 Technical Material Update**

RvW mentioned that there was a draft Dam Safety Risk Guideline that was compiled in the 1990s, but it was never formally issued.

RvW indicated that Odon Human would lead the developing of the Guideline, with support from Frank Denys and RvW.

The team is to apply for funding from the Water Research Commission (WRC).

HJW to draft a letter which states that SANCOLD supports the initiative, which is to be submitted to the WRC by the end of the week.

MANCO approved of the initiative to be initiated.

**[RvW, HJW]**

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.

**[HJW]**

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

HJW indicated that it has been a challenge to get a hold of MVD, as he was on sabbatical leave until the end of June 2025. HJW to continue following up on him.

**[MVD, HJW]**

#### **6.4 SANCOLD Training, APP Development & Dam Safety Initiatives**

The SANCOLD Hydropower Course was discussed earlier. It will be taking place from 3 – 4 November 2025, at the Zutari Offices.

**[RvW, JZ]**

#### **6.5 Mentorship and Training Programme**

SK provided feedback on the progress of the programme. He mentioned that:

- The mentors and mentees have been paired based on their selected field.
- An Onboarding Pack Document has been compiled to assist participants in understanding their roles and responsibilities.
- Communicate the commencement of the programme to members in July 2025.

SM to circulate the Onboarding Pack Document to the paired mentors and mentees.

Members who wish to become mentees are still welcome to join the programme, as there are unallocated mentors. SM communicate this to the SANCOLD membership base.

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

## **6.6 Young Persons Forum**

### **6.5.1 Webinar or Training Program**

Discussed in the earlier agenda point.

**[AC, JZ, CS]**

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

JZ was elected to be on the ICOLD YPF Board and MANCO congratulated her.

**[JZ]**

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

Discussed in the earlier agenda point.

**[QS]**

## **6.8 Discussions with DWS Minister**

DB engaged with Wally Ramokopa regarding the matter, who indicated he would assist with ensuring the letter reaches the Minister.

SK mentioned the importance of confirming the appropriate audience.

CM recommended that a letter be drafted and sent directly to the Ministry and possibly get the Deputy Minister, Director-General (DG) or Deputy Director General (DDG) involved, informing them of SANCOLD's interest to engage with the Ministry.

SK mentioned the possibility of inviting the DDG to future SANCOLD MANCO meetings.

DB indicated that the letter to be drafted needs to outline the points that we wish to discuss.

[HJW, DB, CM, MG]

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

ACo and WR to provide feedback or report on progress made at the next MANCO meeting. SM and HJW to follow up with ACo.

DCE mentioned that there is a number of tailings facilities being pushed forward in terms of inspections. He indicated that SANCOLD needs to be aware of this, and he cited the lack of potential APPs for this type of work. He suggested that awareness needs to be raised in this regard.

[SM, HJW, Aco]

#### **6.10 Pollution Control Dams brochure**

HJW mentioned that he had a discussion with Kelvin Legge regarding the Pollution Control Dams Brochure.

HJW proposed that more people need to review the brochure and provide further input as to whether SANCOLD needs to pursue this further as an official brochure.

MB volunteered to review the brochure.

[HJW, MB]

#### **6.11 Guidelines for Freeboard Benchmarking**

DB indicated that there was a challenge in completing the Guideline as he lost some information due to issues with his computer. DB is committed to having it completed by the end of the year.

[DB]

#### **6.12 SANCOLD Scholarship**

SM confirmed that the SANCOLD Scholarship Award Letter was sent to Janneke Groenewald and was signed by the recipient.

SM to follow up on her progress report.

SM to get her in contact with MB regarding her involvement in this year's Conference.

[SM]

## **7 Financial Matters**

### **7.1 Budget 2025**

No further discussions.

### **7.2 Membership Matters**

DCE confirmed that the SANCOLD Central Supplier Database (CSD) is up to date.

LM reported that members have been paying at a good rate, as 67% of membership fees have been paid for this current year.

[DCE, LM]

### **7.3 Audit**

DCE to submit the 2025 financials to the auditors.

DCE mentioned that SANCOLD is below the VAT threshold and will not push the matter further unless required to change it by SARS.

[DCE]

## **8 ICOLD Activities**

### **8.1 ICOLD Circular Letters**

SM to continue circulating the Circular Letters.

A new ICOLD President and Africa Regional Club Vice-President were elected during the ICOLD event held in May.

[HJW, SM]

### **8.2 ICOLD Issues**

#### **8.2.1 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 was held in May, and a report back was included in the SANCOLD Newsletter.

[SM]

## **9 General**

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

SANCOLD to continue aligning its service offerings with the findings of the questionnaire that was sent out to members.

Questionnaire to be included at the SANCOLD Conference. MB to request PCO to include it in the Conference proceedings.

**[HJW, MB, SM]**

### **9.2 Other**

No further discussions.

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

The next meeting will be scheduled for 29 October 2025. To be scheduled for an afternoon meeting (15h00). The venue is to be confirmed.

## **11 Closure**

The meeting closed at 10:40.

---

## **Annexure A – SANCOLD Portfolios**

|           | <b>Portfolio</b>                                          | <b>Responsible Person</b>                        | <b>Support Persons</b>                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Membership                                                | Secretary                                        | -                                                                      |
| <b>2</b>  | Finance                                                   | Treasurer                                        | Secretary                                                              |
| <b>3</b>  | Institutional                                             | Secretary/Chairperson                            | Danie Badenhorst                                                       |
| <b>4</b>  | ICOLD Liaison                                             | Secretary/Chairperson                            | -                                                                      |
| <b>5</b>  | Website                                                   | Webmaster                                        | Secretary                                                              |
| <b>6</b>  | Young Persons                                             | YPF Chairperson and Committee                    | -                                                                      |
| <b>7</b>  | Training                                                  | Gerald de Jager                                  | Rudolf van Wyk                                                         |
| <b>8</b>  | Annual Conference                                         | Michelle Blaeser & Sub Committee                 | Janice Zhang & Kogi Naidoo                                             |
| <b>9</b>  | Marketing – Increasing Visibility                         | -                                                | -                                                                      |
| <b>10</b> | Associated Studies, Working Groups and Publications Sales | Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson/Secretary/Treasurer | See listing on Guidelines & Publications, e.g. Flood Studies Programme |
| <b>11</b> | Africa Interactions                                       | Janice Zhang & Rudolf van Wyk                    | -                                                                      |
| <b>12</b> | Webinars                                                  | Ashely Coetzee                                   | MANCO                                                                  |
| <b>13</b> | LinkedIn Page                                             | Ashely Coetzee                                   | Louis Hattingh                                                         |
| <b>14</b> | DWS Needs                                                 | DWS Representatives                              | Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson                                           |
| <b>15</b> | Mentorship                                                | Sego Kelefetswe                                  | Secretary                                                              |
| <b>16</b> | Site Visits                                               | -                                                | Jacques du Plessis                                                     |
| <b>17</b> | Information Sharing                                       | -                                                | -                                                                      |