

Waterdrive case area conclusions 2021-05-20

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In Västervik Municipality we have been working with advising service (local catchment officers) towards landowners and farmers during many years. The farmers are generally positive to implement measures, but they need help. Help to select among available measures, where to start (SWOT analysies), how to finance, contact with other authorities and help to plan the measures and find new solutions.

Prioritization of Catchment areas is based on previous monitoring and data modelling that shows where the nutrient load is high.

Below follows a description of how the catchment officer can work, step by step, in a smaller catchment area, in collaboration with the farmer/landowner:

- **Building partnerships.** Initial dialog with farmers in the Catchment area. Meetings in small groups and one by one in the field. Information about measures and how to implement them in their area and on their farms. Appointments of meetings in field (interested farmers/landowners). An important role for the catchment officer is sharing information and knowledge.
- **Local action plan.** SWOT-analyses are made at the farms in collaboration with the landowners. Problem areas on the fields turns into interesting spots for measures. Investment plans and priorities are made.
- **Financing.** Calculation of costs for the investments and actions. Funding possibilities from national and regional funds. Applications for grants to regional and national authorities are normally made by the municipality.
- **Agreement** – When the farmer/landowner are ready to implement a measure, a written agreement will be signed. It contains what to do, when, by whom, costs, and future maintenance.
- **Procurement.** It is not always the farmer/landowner are implementing the measures themselves. The catchment officer helps with procurement if it is necessary.
- **Implementation.** When the farmer/landowner are digging/working the catchment officer can support by phone and on site. Adjustments will be realized in consensus.
- **Final inspection.** When the work is completed, an approval inspection is performed by the catchment officer.
- **Monitoring.** The catchment officer will follow-up the measure in collaboration with the farmer/landowner.
- **Reporting.** Contacts with concerned authorities is done by the catchment officer. The catchment officer reports the implemented measures to the funding authorities. Arc-GIS is used for map construction.

Suggestions for the future:

Suggestions for the future for an organization with catchment officer service on a local level.

- Act locally to create knowledge and commitments between stakeholders in the area.
- Find and prioritize the most interested farmers to start
- Make SWOT analysis on field/watercourses level with landowners – Turn problem areas on field to interesting spots for implementing measures.
- Develop a Local Action Plan for the watercourse and the farm in dialogue.
- Simplify as much as possible with clear objectives.
- Set common objectives that generate "win-win" concept both reduced eutrophication, climate adaption, biodiversity and increased harvest.
- Holistic view - close to farmers/landowners and stakeholders

Västervik municipality are one of 20 pilots in Sweden working with catchment officers since 2019 – the **LEVA Network**. The pilots are based within different areas; in regional boards, in municipalities and in WUP:s. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management have published a report based on intervjues with the catchment officers. In the report the conclusions of the LEVA areas' experience are summarised, and cost-effective measures and incentives have been identified. Finaly areas of improvement are, identified and highlighted to strengthen the planning of measures. Implemented and planned local measures in the LEVA areas, as well as modelling in sub-basins, show that there is a potential for more voluntary measures against eutrophication in the agricultural landscape, even in a scenario where current levels of food production are maintained.