

SWEDEN – VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY

Report from focus groups in case area <Västervik> so far 2020-03-05

Main tasks/goals of the focus groups

- What is the problem, challenge and possibilities?
- How to reduce the nutrients from the farmland
- Inspiration for actions to the landowners
- Show good examples
- Find the most interested landowners
- Find the spots where it is most important to reduce nutrients

Strategic planning of focus groups (what to do when and how?)

2019-2020 – Meeting with several focus groups in catchment areas where we have intense production and a lot of cattle within a small area - as around a lake or a stream. In these meetings we can inform about successful measures and help farmers to choose the right measure in the right place and with contacts to authorities and stakeholders.

April 2019 - Kickoff for the common area with focus on the problems in the Baltic and our local coastline. Landowners in the catchment area Loftaån were specially invited.

February 2020 - In one of the focus groups we talked about drinking water and protection of the common drinking water in. In the municipality it is proceeding a work with water from a new area to producing drinking water.

Plans for 2020 – Further meetings in important areas with intense production. Using the Waterdrive network and LEVA-network in Sweden to develop our model for working with water issues with landowners. The LEVA network involves 20 Swedish regions with catchment officers like in Västervik. We will develop the using of digital maps for localization of measures.

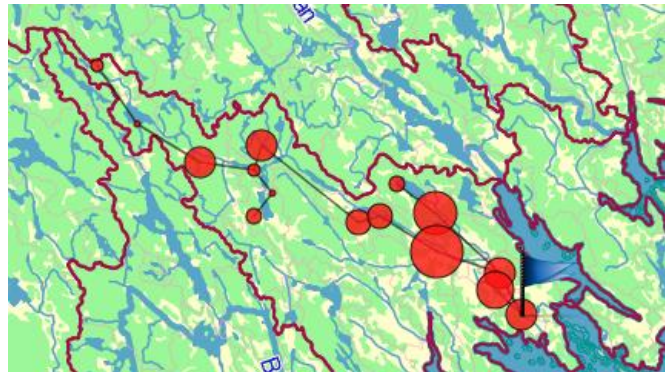
Focus group meeting 1 (April 2019) Catchment area Loftaån

The main purpose of the meeting

The main purpose of the meeting was to illustrate the status of the Baltic Sea and what can be done. "How to increase water quality and local food production". Lecturers by Elin Lindhoff, Linnaeus University and Dennis Wiström, Västervik Municipality

Participants

Participants - Farmers and landowners in Västervik municipality – special invitation for farmers in the catchment area Loftaån (Lofta stream) where we have funds for measures 2019-2021. 45 persons.



Main inputs made (minutes and resume of meeting)

Elin Lindhoff informed about the Baltic Sea and why it reacts as it does. Why there are regional differences and different environmental threats to the Baltic Sea. Not only eutrophication but also other factors such as overfishing and environmental pollution. The nutritional chain in the Baltic Sea was explained and which favors, and disadvantages different species have from the eutrophication. The Climate Change effects on the Baltic Sea and which ecological consequences this will have, were explained. New businesses like Algoland were discussed. (See annex 2) She also informed about the special problem in the Västervik coastal area with deep bays with a shallow mouth. This situation makes it even more important with measures for reducing nutrients.

Dennis Wiström informed about agricultural plants and what conditions they need. He also talked about how to do the right action in the right place. The results from ongoing projects were presented. Both phosphorus and nitrogen have decreased in the Baggetorpsån and this is a good example in the neighborhood. Dennis also inform about new projects and funds from the state, and the WaterDrive-project and how to proceed together. (See annex 3)

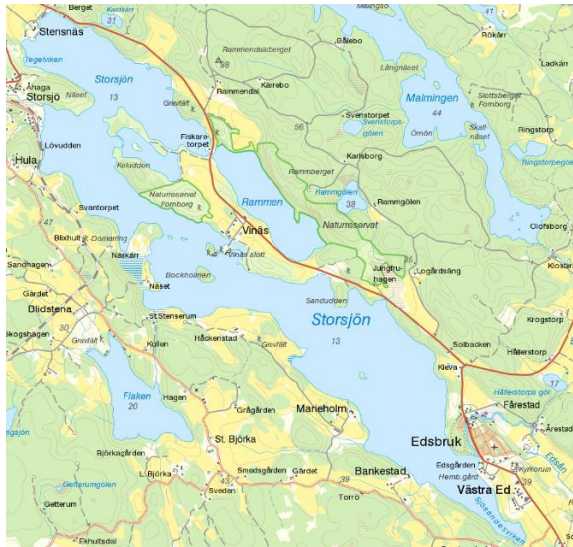
What we learned

The landowners seemed to understand the importance of measures. They were interested in collaboration with the project. We learned who will be the first to contact for onsite meetings. We will need a lot of contact to the landowners individual and in smaller groups. They need help in to choose the right measure in the right place and they need help with contacts to authorities and stakeholders.

Possible actions

We need individual talks to the landowners on site at the local farm. We need a couple of meetings in smaller catchment areas. In these meetings we can discuss possibilities and local measures in the area in a smaller group.

Focus group meeting 2 (November 2019) Catchment area Ukna valley



The main purpose of the meeting

The main purpose of the meeting was to inspire the landowners and to find the most interested landowners (in adaption for climate change and reducing nutrients).

Participants

Participants - Farmers and landowners in the valley of Ukna in Västervik municipality. 20 persons.

Main inputs made (minutes and resume of meeting)

Together with the upstream located municipality, Åtvidaberg we informed about, a recently started up project. The project focus on water quality, knowledge about the waterflows and how to decrease the leakage of nutrients.

The local farmers union talked about the importance of working with water issues. Dennis Wiström informed about the problems in the area with flooding and the importance of delaying the water higher up in the system. Anders Fröberg informed about the plans from the municipality to investigate the possibilities to produce common drinking water in the area. The production of drinking water must change in order to make it possible to produce good drinking water even during dry years. Dennis Wiström also talked about how to do the right action/measure in the right place. The results from on-going projects were presented. Both phosphorus and nitrogen have decreased in the Baggetorpsån. Dennis also inform about new projects, like WaterDrive and how to proceed together.

What we learned

The landowners seemed to understand the importance of measures. The landowners were interested in collaboration with the project. We learned who will be the first to contact for onsite meetings. We learned that the farmers in the area are very interesting for developing a project with funds for local measures (national funds from the state).

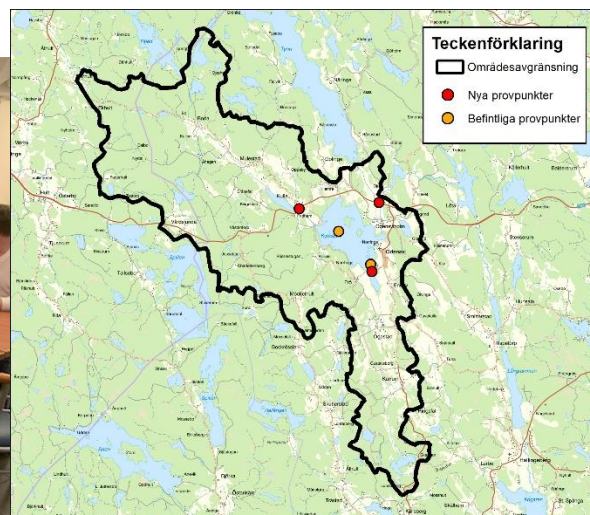
Possible actions

We need individual talks with the landowners onsite at the different local farms. We need to apply for funds from the state for local measures. A special meeting about upcoming restrictions if the municipality goes on with the plans about producing drinking water in the area.

Focus group meeting 3 (February 2020) Catchment area Kyrksjön

The main purpose of the meeting

The main purpose of the meeting was to inspire the landowners and to find the most interested landowners (in adaption for climate change and reducing nutrients).



Participants

Participants - Farmers and landowners in the valley of lake Kyrksjön in Västervik municipality. 15 persons.

Main inputs made (minutes and resume of meeting)

In the area around Kyrksjön there is a high and intensive dairy production with 2400 milk cows. Two of the farms are among the biggest farms in southeastern Sweden.

The local farmers union talked about the importance of working with water issues. Dennis Wiström informed about the possibilities. Measures for reducing nutrients in this area will make a big difference. Dennis Wiström also talked about climate change and how to adapt to the climate change and more irregular precipitation. Floods and very dry summers have been a problem during the last years. There was a discussion how to do the right action in the right place. The results from ongoing projects were presented. Dennis also inform about new projects, like WaterDrive and how to proceed together.

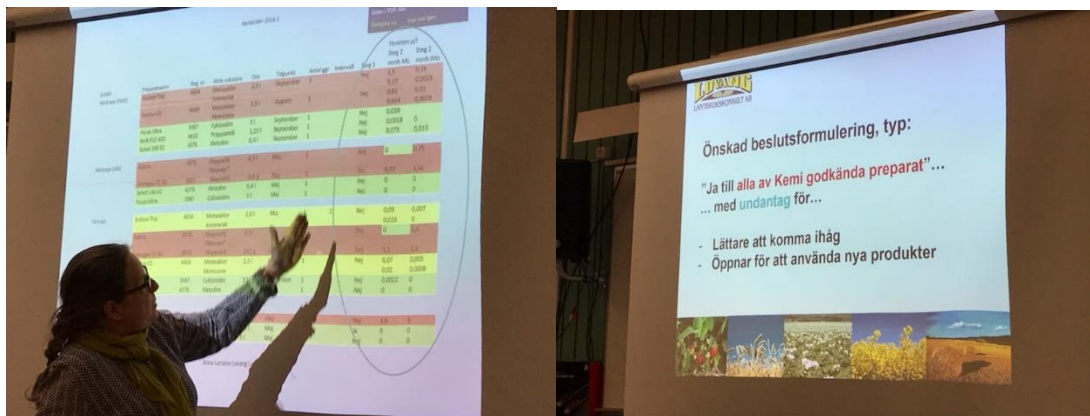
What we learned

The landowners seemed to understand the importance of measures. They were interested in collaboration with the project. Landowners were very interested in the possibilities to use water from ponds for irrigation. We learned who will be the first to contact for onsite meetings. In the area they have an interest in fishing and fishing for reducing nutrients was an idea. We learned to involve the local village association and the fishing association. We learned that the farmers in the area are very interesting in developing a project with funds for local measures (national funds from the state).

Possible actions

We need individual meetings with the landowners on site at the local farms. Apply for funds from the state for local measures and circulation of nutrients.

Focus group meeting 4 (February 2020) Water Protection



The main purpose of the meeting

The main purpose of the meeting was to help the landowners to understand the legislation in water protection areas.

Participants

Participants - Farmers and landowners in the Municipality Farmers union. Politicians and officials at the municipality. 40 persons.

Main inputs made (minutes and resume of meeting)

Many landowners in the municipality live within protected areas for production of drinking water. Henrik Djerf, Official from the farmer union, talked about the legislation and why we need these restrictions. Bodil Paulsson, Consultant Lovang AB, talked about how it works with permits and demands in a Water restriction area. Comments from the local landowners with land in a restricted area. Information about the plans from the municipality about producing drinking water in a new area in the future. Information about upcoming investigations.

What we learned

The landowners seemed to understand the importance of measures. They were interested in collaboration with the project. Landowners were very interested in the possibilities to use water from ponds

for irrigation. We learned we had to start an onsite meeting in the first place. In the area they have an interest in fishing - and fishing to reduce nutrients was an idea. We learned to involve the local village association and the fishing association. We learned that the farmers in the area are very interested in developing a project with funds for local measures (national funds from the state).

We learned that it is important to inform landowners why we need restricted areas for drinking water.

We need a discussion about what the landowners can do for better water quality.

We learned that it is very important to involve the landowners early in the process of investigating new areas for possible water production.

Possible actions

Meetings with landowners how the investigation proceeds.