

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014 – 2020

**R094 Water driven rural development in the Baltic Sea Region
(WATERDRIVE)**

REPORT

reed removal demonstration

Date: August, 2019.

Venue: Jekabnieki village, Svete parish, Jelgava Local Municipality

Agenda: reed removal demonstration

Figure 1: Reed removal demonstration in River Svete_1



Water driven rural development in the Baltic Sea Region” Nr. R094 WATERDRIVE specific objective is clear waters. To increase efficiency of water management for reduced nutrient inflows and decreased discharges of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea and the regional waters based on enhanced capacity of public and private actors dealing with water quality issues.

Rivers in Jelgava Local Municipality are under stress, affected by high nutrient loadings and eutrophication which leads to rivers’ overgrowth. Within the WATERDRIVE project Jelgava Local Municipality as local authority wanted to rise awareness on condition of the rivers and the need of river cleaning.

Svete river is a Public river. It is a tributary of the left bank of the Lielupe river – the biggest river in Jelgava Local Municipality. The total length of Svete river is 123 km, of which 75 km are in the territory of Latvia and 65,4 km in Jelgava Local Municipality. It flows mostly through agricultural lands of Zemgale region plain. Leaching of nutrients from agricultural lands contributes to the growth of aquatic plants, the management on floodplain meadows is insufficient, biomass accumulation in the river bed results in disturbed natural river flow. Also the natural processes of rivers are additionally influenced by relatively warm winters due to climate change, which do not form a thick layer of ice that is able to naturally clean the river bed and shoreline during spring floods.

Figure 2. Reed removal demonstration in the River Svete_2



In second half of August Jelgava Local Municipality organized a mechanical clean-up of reeds in River Svete section from the bridge over the river in Jēkabnieki - 200m up and 80m downstream (*Figure 2, Figure 3*). The reed removal eliminates the risk of flooding and ensures a water flow. With this reed removal demonstration (*Figure 5, Figure 7*) Jelgava Local Municipality wants to raise awareness in farmers, landowners and inhabitants about the importance of cleanup

of river as one of the main objectives on flood prevention measures, as well as improvement of water quality and environment.

The demonstration in the pilot area is a good example of getting rid from aquatic plants, as it is more effective way than mowing, as the removal of the roots of aquatic plants will prevent further overgrowth of the river bed and improves the river water course.

Figure 3: Map of reed removal demonstration area in the River Svete.

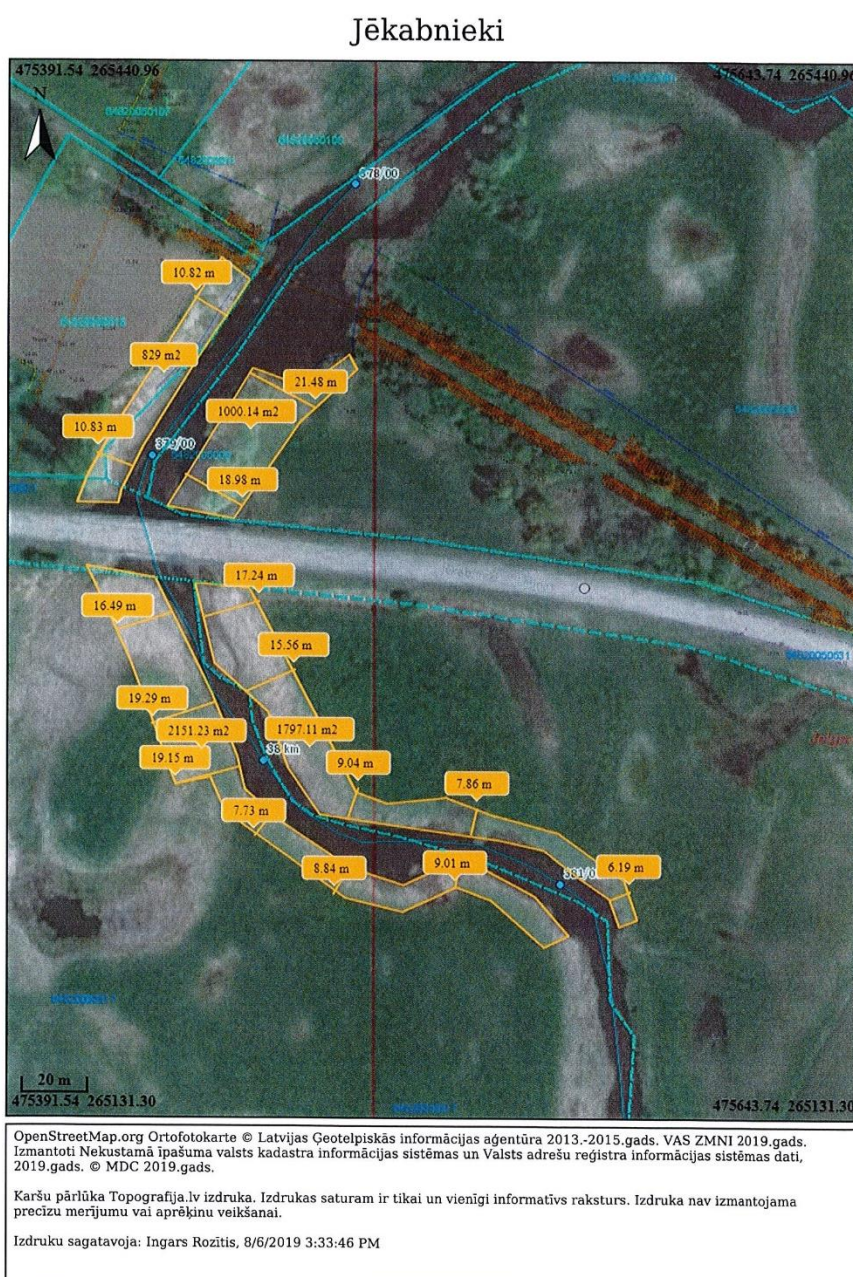


Figure 4: The River Svete 200 m upstream before reed removal



Figure 5: The River Svete 200 m upstream after reed removal



Figure 6: The River Svete 80 m downstream before reed removal



Figure 7: The River Svete 80 m downstream after reed removal



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS







The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014 – 2020

**R094 Water driven rural development in the Baltic Sea Region
(WATERDRIVE)**

**grass and reed harvesting
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Date and time: 22nd August, 2019, from 10.00 am

Venue: Jēkabnieki village, Svete parish, Jelgava Local Municipality

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