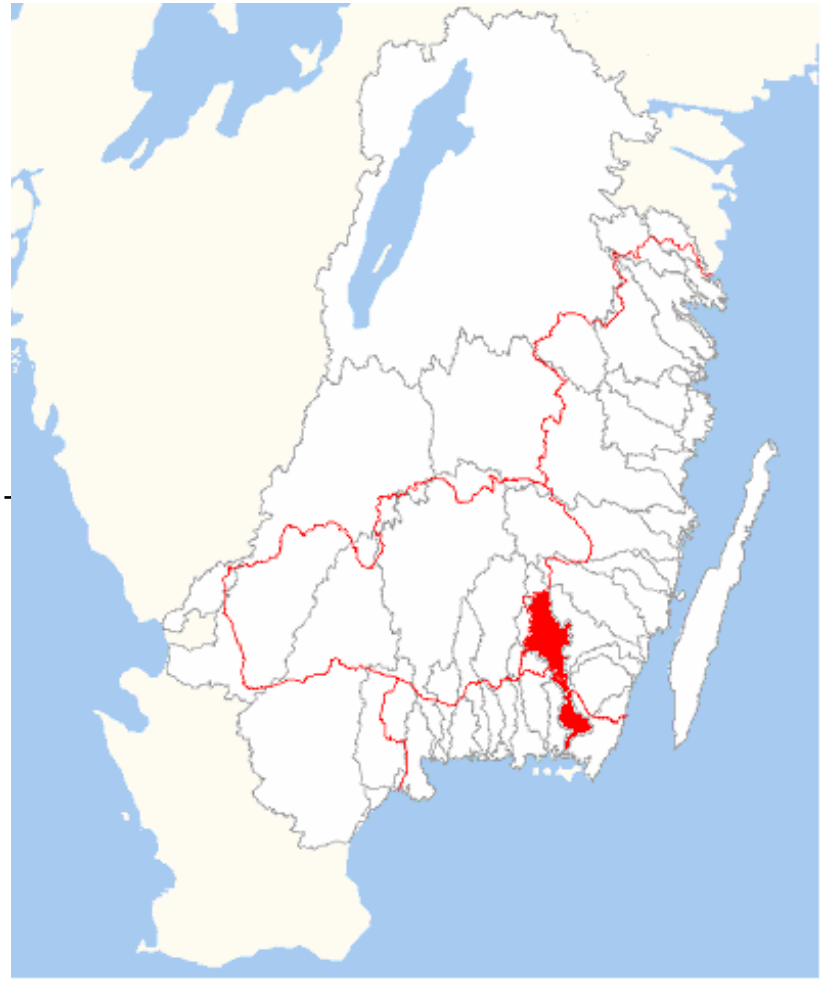
LYCKEBY RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION



Forming a Water Association

Three municipalities,

Lessebo, Emmaboda and Karlskrona,

decided in the 1980´s to form a water association in co-operation with the three County Administration Boards of Kronoberg, Kalmar and Blekinge.

- One specially skilled man was appointed by the County of Kalmar to carry out the investigations about forming the association and propose the code for its activities.

- His work was finished in 1988 and the LYCKEBY RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION was formed.

Members

- The association now has 26 members
  - 3 municipals
  - 1 water control association
  - 7 drainage associations
  - 5 electric power stations
  - 9 fishing management associations
  - 3 companies and
  - The National Board of Forestry.

The task

The Lyckeby River Water Association shall

- promote the proper use of water from the river and
- make citizens aware of the importance of the river for their own fresh water supply.

The association also takes part in the co-ordinated water control program along the river and other co-ordinated activities.

Economy

- 3 municipalities and 3 companies pay member fees to the Water Association
  - 190 000 SEK/year (20 300 EURO).

- The money is spent on
  - meeting costs,
  - partnership fees,
  - water analysis
  - consultants/experts
  - etc

Meeting activities

- All members are invited to an annual meeting. At this meeting the board, the chairman and two auditors are elected and the member-fee for the next year is decided. Members are also allowed to make proposals to this meeting.

- The board meets 4 – 5 times/year (decided by the chairman).

THE LYCKEBY RIVER AREA

- Runs from north to south in the south-east part of Sweden.
- Length = 100 km
- Catchment area = 811 sq km
- Average amount of rain-fall = 500 mm/year
- The river falls 234 m from the wells to the sea

Geology

- Hard bed-rock, mainly granite. Moraine soil with glacier deposits.
- Coniferous wood-land in the upper part, some 80% of the catchment area.
- Agriculture-land in the lower part, some 7%.

Water status

- Low pH and buffer capacity due to geology and vegetation. Acid rains make this worse. About 1000-1200 tons of lime is yearly added to the river and the lakes.
- High rates of colour.
- Medium to small contents of P and N.

Water usage

- The river water is used for drinking water produktion in three different places along the river.
- Treated sewage-water runs off to the river from 7 different municipal plants.
- No big industrial use of water
- 5 electrical power stations

- No professional fishing
- High importance for the tourist trade and for the local population. Since the 1960´s there has been an increasing demand by citizens in Sweden for cleaner rivers and lakes.

LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

- A new Environmental Code came into force on 1 January 1999.
- The aim of the Code is to promote sustainable development.
- The earlier Swedish Water Act was amalgamated into the Environmental Code.

WATER ACTIVITIES

- In accordance with the Environmental Code special Environmental Courts gives permission to carry out water activities and other activities with considerable environmental impact.

CENTRAL LEVEL

- The Swedish Environmental Agency issues guidelines and regulations in accordance with the Environmental Code
- The agency also carries out central supervision over environmental activities.

REGIONAL LEVEL

- On regional level the County Administrative Boards are responsible for environmental monitoring and supervision.
- Permissions for minor environmental or water activities could be given on this level.

LOCAL LEVEL

- Municipal Environmental Boards give permission for minor domestic waste water outlets. No outlet to ditches or lakes is allowed unless the water has passed at least biological and gravimetric clarification.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES

I accordance with the Environmental Code the Swedish parliament has established 15 environmental quality objectives. Some of these goals concerns water e.g.

- Flourishing lakes and streams
- Natural acidification only
- Good quality ground-water
- Zero eutrophication
- A balanced marine environment
- Thriving wetlands