



Seagull Water

Swedish workshop 22 August 2003

Summary

This was a workshop aiming to create a basis for a future SWOT analyse about Swedish water protection work at local level. The following items were raised.

Water protection at local level, STRENGTHS of today, within the own organisation

Well functioning local organisation/administration
Long experience of water protection
Active interest
Good local knowledge
Easy to see the connection between decisions and results
Common values

Water protection at local level, WEAKNESSES of today, within the own organisation

Common values (?)
Protecting of one's preserves (local and/or regional level)
Lack of comprehensive view
Insufficient "input" from the world around
Long way to central decision makers
Risk for unequal treatment due to bonds for friendship
Lack of resources and expert competences
Vulnerability, if a key person leave the organisation

Water protection at local level, future OPPORTUNITIES

Well functioning local organisation with extensive power
Learn from "best practice"
The EU Water Framework Directive will give good results in a future
The new EU countries
Tourism – the Karlskrona archipelago may, for example, be of interest for tourists from Poland . Fishing, eco-tourism etc.
Important to co-operate with other, not only work within the own municipality.
Increased research necessary
Local and regional environmental objectives may be an important tool

Water protection at local level, future THREATS

Lack of resources
Decreasing ecological interest
Distrust of municipalities and other authorities
Long way from the local level to national decision makers
"Invisible" results, changes in water quality are can't be seen by eye, you have to make chemical analyses. Makes it difficult to discuss with citizens.
Problems with "old sins" (for example heavy metals in sediments)
Dramatic weather changes, for example cloudbursts and storms (may also be a positive

factor, if this get people more interested in ecological issues)

Increased levels of **humus** in surface waters

Low precipitation → shortage of ground water

Too high exploit of water

CONCRETE MEASURES which the participators we will try to implement in the nearest future

- Water management as an important part of spatial planning / the municipal comprehensive plan
- Give your knowledge also to other people! Spread the information.
- Rain water treatment in wetlands, as a way to reach good water quality in our central lake.
- Invite people working with water management to a hearing.
- Co-ordination of different interests!
- How can we finance different measures? A most important question.
- Supervision of waste water point sources, also waste water from private houses.
- Increase the knowledge about water and environment within our schools
- Education of teachers
- Invite pupils 10-13 years old to our water and waste water treatment plants.
- Information on Internet
- Invitation to other water management organisations, to discuss co-operation.

Participators

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