VANSJØ CASE STUDY

Multi-actor processes and collective action for improving water quality in the Vansjø catchment

THE VANSJØ CATCHMENT

Vansjø covers about 690 km2 and 40 000 inhabitants live in the area. 15% is covered by agriculture (mainly cereal production), 7% by water bodies, and 78% by forested areas. The catchment is among the most affected by agricultural runoff in Norway. Since 1999, Morsa sub-district has established formal arenas for both horizontal and vertical collaboration between regional and local authorities with possibilities for participation.

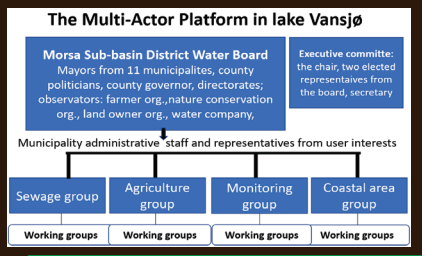
E. Skarbøvik, 2005

THE HISTORY OF VANSJØ

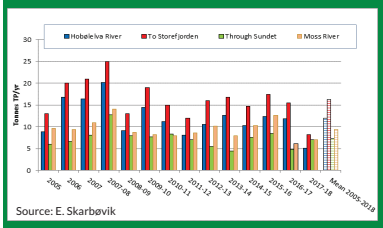
From around 1970 monitoring activities detected continuously deteriorating water quality conditions in the Morsa area – with implications for drinking water quality and recreational activities. A number of environmental measures focusing on both agriculture and clean up of disbursed sewage over many years have been carried out to improve water quality,

LESSON LEARNED: ORGANIZATION

Emphasis on collective action, all need to contribute.
Knowledge-based decision to increase trust and legitimacy in decision-making.
The Morsa Sub-district Committee is important for coordination and involvement of interest groups.



LESSON LEARNED: MEASURES



Source: E. Skarbøvik

Legal and economic incentives in combination with dialogue and guidance are important for implementation of measures.
Effective measures: avoid autumn ploughing, wide buffer zones along waterways, grass cover on erosion exposed areas, catch dams.
Incidence of heavy precipitation and water flow influence perceptions of what are effects of measures.

FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR VANSJØ

Important to engage also national level authorities for local level issues as many of the premises for local action derive from national / regional levels
Need to understand climate change impacts on runoff, and the effectiveness of measures under a changing climate
Challenges in keeping up the engagement for continuous implementation of measures

FAIRWAY

Morsa

www.fairway-project.eu

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