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Sussex County's Freshwater Future: The Role of Land Use and Changing Landscapes

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LURWG Goals

1. Implement smarter and more sustainable development practices.
2. Ensure growth is supported by infrastructure, including roads, schools, environment, and
3. Increase affordable and workforce housing opportunities.
4. Preserve farmland and critical natural resources.
5. Prevent uncoordinated, low-density development in rural areas.

Relevant LURWG Recommendations

1. Establish Growth and Conservation Areas (Recommendation #2)
    a. Establish conservation areas (“Conservation Areas”) for all areas not included in Growth Areas. The purpose of Conservation Areas is to prevent uncoordinated sprawl by preserving farmland, protecting natural resources, and limiting development in areas not served by adequate infrastructure.
2. Forest Preservation (Recommendation #12): Promote the retention of existing trees by enacting value-based tree preservation requirements including mitigation options and incentives to promote preservation.
3. Encourage Naturalized Landscaping in Passive Open Space (Recommendation #14)

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Relevant LURWG Recommendations

4. Focus Subdivision Design in Conservation Areas around Conservation Priorities (Recommendation #15)
    - Require resource protection mapping to include delineation and mapping of resources, including: forests, wildlife habitat corridors, wetlands, waterways, and historic or scenic viewsheds. Prioritize protection of resources as follows:
        i. Waterways;
        ii. Wetlands;
        iii. Forests;
        iv. Wildlife Habitat Corridors.

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Next Steps

- Pass ordinances to codify relevant recommendations (Sussex County Council)
- Incorporate certain elements into the new Sussex County Comprehensive Plan (due 2028)



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STAC Role??

- Lobby??? Yuck!!!
- CIB – Lobby??? Yes!!!
- STAC – Advise??? Maybe



Key Issues

- Flooding vulnerability/Precipitation/SLR
- Water Quality
- Salt Water Intrusion
- Habitat Protection
- Other?
- How affected by land use policy and decisions?



Thank you.

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