

## **Discussion Summary — Conversation with Travis Tuson Regarding Silver Jackets and USACE Funding Pathways (March 13, 2025)**

This summary reflects contemporaneous notes and recollections from a discussion regarding flood-risk reduction programs and potential funding pathways related to Mallard Lakes Community Association. It is provided for historical context and should not be interpreted as an official statement, commitment, or policy position of any participating agency or official.

During a March 13, 2025 discussion with Travis Tuson, participants reviewed potential state and federal coordination mechanisms related to flood-risk reduction and resilience planning for Mallard Lakes. The conversation included discussion of Delaware’s “Silver Jackets” program, an interagency flood-risk management partnership involving federal, state, and local representatives that focuses on improving flood-risk coordination, public communication, and identification of funding opportunities for vulnerable communities. It was explained that Delaware’s Silver Jackets program had previously been inactive for several years but was in the process of being reenergized, and that Mallard Lakes could potentially be discussed within that broader interagency framework.

The discussion also included ongoing coordination with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding potential grant and study opportunities that might apply to Mallard Lakes. Participants discussed the possibility that the community could qualify for various USACE-related programs, including both fully federally funded initiatives and programs requiring local cost-sharing arrangements. Conversation focused on the practical challenges associated with obtaining local sponsorship and matching funds, particularly in HOA-governed communities, as well as the mechanics of reimbursable grant structures in which project costs may initially need to be advanced before federal reimbursement occurs.

Additional discussion addressed the possibility of future engineering studies to better evaluate flood-related risks and mitigation options at Mallard Lakes, including whether studies would be conducted directly by USACE or managed locally through outside engineering firms. Participants also discussed broader concerns regarding the complexity and seriousness of the community’s flood-related vulnerabilities, based on feedback received from environmental consultants and engineering professionals who had reviewed aspects of the site and its flooding history.