

## **Discussion Summary — DNREC Correspondence Regarding USACE CAP 205 Sponsorship and State Coordination (August–October 2025)**

This summary reflects correspondence regarding potential flood-mitigation sponsorship, intergovernmental coordination, and long-term resilience planning 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 the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), or any participating official.

Between August and October 2025, Simone Reba exchanged correspondence with DNREC and DEMA representatives regarding the potential use of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) 205 to support future flood-mitigation efforts at Mallard Lakes. In the correspondence, Simone explained that Mallard Lakes had previously been determined eligible for consideration under CAP 205 following earlier USACE evaluation of the Little Assawoman Bay area, but that the effort had stalled after Sussex County declined to serve as the required non-federal sponsor. Simone requested guidance regarding whether DNREC, or another Delaware governmental entity, might consider serving in that sponsorship role.

DNREC representatives acknowledged familiarity with Mallard Lakes' flooding concerns and coordinated internally with DEMA and other state staff regarding the request. Discussions focused on the governance, funding, and sponsorship requirements associated with CAP 205 projects, including questions regarding local cost-sharing responsibilities and whether mitigation costs would be borne community-wide or only by directly affected property owners.

In follow-up correspondence, DNREC explained that the agency was not positioned to serve as the non-federal sponsor for a CAP 205 project at Mallard Lakes, but strongly encouraged Sussex County to consider serving in that role as part of its Hazard Mitigation Plan implementation efforts. DNREC representatives noted that County sponsorship would better align the project with local mitigation priorities and could more effectively support future leveraging of federal funding opportunities through the USACE program. DNREC also indicated that the agency remained willing to provide technical guidance and coordination support related to shoreline and flood-mitigation planning if Sussex County or other appropriate governmental entities pursued future project development.

The correspondence reflected broader ongoing challenges associated with implementing large-scale resilience projects in HOA-governed coastal communities, including the need for governmental sponsorship, local coordination, funding commitments, and alignment between community priorities and regional hazard-mitigation planning efforts.