

## **Discussion Summary — USACE Inland Bays / CAP 205 Funding Pathway Discussions (December 2025)**

This summary reflects independent research, correspondence, and conceptual planning related to potential flood-mitigation funding pathways for Mallard Lakes Community Association. It is provided for historical context and should not be interpreted as an official position, commitment, or approved funding strategy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DNREC, Sussex County, or any participating official.

In late 2025, discussions and follow-up correspondence focused on understanding how recommendations emerging from the Delaware Inland Bays Study might ultimately be financed and implemented if flood-mitigation projects were identified for Mallard Lakes. The research effort attempted to better understand the relationship between the broader USACE/DNREC Inland Bays Study and existing federal project authorities such as the USACE CAP 205 Flood Control program. A conceptual funding pathway document was developed to illustrate one potential sequence through which the Inland Bays Study could identify flooding problems and recommend mitigation concepts, while a separate federal authority such as CAP 205 could potentially provide the feasibility, engineering, design, and construction funding needed to implement a project.

As part of this effort, correspondence was sent to Scott Sanderson of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District seeking clarification regarding how projects identified through the Inland Bays Study would actually transition into funded implementation projects. Questions focused on whether future projects would require entirely new Congressional appropriations, whether they could proceed under existing Corps authorities such as CAP 205, and how federal cost-sharing mechanisms would function in practice. The discussion reflected a broader concern that identifying technically viable mitigation solutions through regional studies is only one step in the process, while securing sponsorship, funding authorization, cost-sharing commitments, and long-term implementation support represents a separate and often more difficult challenge. At the time these materials were prepared, no definitive clarification had yet been received regarding the precise funding mechanism that would ultimately govern implementation of potential Mallard Lakes flood-mitigation projects.