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### **BBLA Advocacy Efforts for a New Federal Study of the Inland Bays Come to Fruition**

*Bethany Beach* – Over the past 18 months, BBLA has advocated for DE collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as the non-federal partner on a Back Bay Study to identify and evaluate solutions to the nuisance or sunny day flooding which has plagued beach communities for many years.

BBLA welcomed the long-awaited [announcement from the USACE Philadelphia District](#) that an agreement was signed on 11/29/2022 with DE's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The cost-sharing agreement formally kicks off the Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast Coastal Storm Risk Management Study. The study area includes the Delaware Inland Bays (the set of interconnected bodies of water that are separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a spit of land) and the Delaware Bay coastline of all three DE Counties. The Inland Bays coastline area is approximately 77 square miles and the Delaware Bay coastline is approximately 145 square miles.

As a leading advocate for Delaware's participation in USACE's offer for follow-up studies to the post-Sandy North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study, BBLA is encouraged that the Corps and DNREC are establishing a working plan to mitigate the environmental issues facing the lowest lying state in the U.S. Of the 9 states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia) and the District of Columbia who were invited to participate in the follow-up studies, DE has now joined the other entities as part of this collaborative effort. "Flooding is one of the top issues of concern for the BBLA membership, and I am proud that our team was able to work at the Federal, State, and local levels to help make the important study a reality," said Ron Dobes, BBLA's President of the Board of Directors.

The BBLA Board will remain engaged stakeholders – monitoring the study progress and continuing to advocate for solutions to the specific challenges manifested in Bethany Beach and the surrounding areas. The final product of the study will be a decision document with expected authorized design and construction opportunities.

#### ***ABOUT BBLA***

*BBLA is an association for all property owners in the Town of Bethany Beach, DE. Since 1969, BBLA has served the property owners through communications, advocating on their behalf, and providing civic and charitable donations. Visit [www.bbla.us](http://www.bbla.us) to learn more.*

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