Work Plan for the Wetlands Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC)

Updated: October 7, 2026

This document outlines an approach to RAC discussions and key decisions needed for the group to meet its July 31, 2027 deadline. This Work Plan is a **living document** and may be updated over time.

MONTH	ENTITY	ACTIVITY
July 2026	RAC Meeting	▪ Overview of the Wetlands Stewardship Act and the RAC's charge ▪ Nominations open for the two RAC Co-Chairs ▪ Overview of next steps
August 2026	Facilitation Team	▪ CBI conversations with RAC members on priorities, concerns, and interests ▪ Non-attributional summary of key themes prepared for DNREC & RAC in September
September 2026	RAC Meeting	▪ Vote to approve the two Co-Chairs (7 Del. C. § 6621(e)) ▪ Review DRAFT Wetlands RAC Operating Procedures ▪ Review DRAFT Wetlands RAC Work Plan ▪ Background presentations ▪ Discuss initial guiding principles for regulatory language development ▪ Outline regulatory issue areas that will require subcommittee attention
September 2026	Subcommittees	▪ Subcommittees meet to kick off, scope their charges, and request the technical information they need
October 2026	RAC Meeting	▪ Review nationally recognized best practices and standards, and the incentive programs, policies, and regulatory roles adopted by surrounding states (7 Del. C. §§ 6621(c), 6622(b)) ▪ Review State and federal permitting processes and where overlap occurs ▪ Begin conversations on key topics ▪ Establish subcommittees, confirm their charges, and name a RAC member to chair each (7 Del. C. § 6621(h)) ▪ Discuss approach to public engagement
October 2026	Subcommittees	▪ Subcommittees continue work and begin to formulate specific options ▪ As relevant, additional subcommittees kick off, scope their charges, and request the technical information they need
Late Fall 2026	Public Engagement	▪ Public workshops covering why the RAC exists, its role, and ways to provide input to the RAC. Also, solicit questions from the public.
November 2026	RAC Meeting	▪ Focus on key issues not assigned to Subcommittees. ▪ Initial updates from Subcommittees, as relevant
November 2026	Subcommittees	▪ Subcommittees continue work and begin to formulate (or refine/ finalize, per RAC direction) specific options ▪ As relevant, additional subcommittees kick off, scope their charges, and request the technical information they need
December 2026	RAC Meeting	▪ Interim subcommittee report-outs and discussion ▪ RAC direction to subcommittees, including on unresolved questions or further option development ▪ Continue work on key issues not assigned to subcommittees

MONTH	ENTITY	ACTIVITY
December 2026	Subcommittees	▪ Subcommittees continue work and begin to formulate (or refine/ finalize, per RAC direction) specific options
January 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ Interim subcommittee report-outs and discussion ▪ RAC direction to subcommittees, including on unresolved questions or option refinement ▪ RAC direction on which options to carry into the draft initial regulations
January 2027	Subcommittees	▪ Subcommittees refine options in response to RAC direction; prepare final options for the RAC deliberation
February 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ Subcommittee report-outs and discussion ▪ DNREC presents a complete working draft of the initial regulations, reflecting initial subcommittee options and RAC direction ▪ Begin section-by-section review of initial regulations ▪ RAC direction on revisions to the draft initial regulations
February 2027	Subcommittees	▪ Held in reserve for subcommittees to prepare final options for RAC
Spring 2027	Public Engagement	▪ Public workshops responding to questions posed earlier by the public and outlining a progress update, what the RAC's decisions are leading toward, and continued opportunities to provide input to the RAC. As relevant, solicit additional questions from public.
March 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ Subcommittee report-outs and discussion, as needed ▪ DNREC presents a revised working draft of the initial regulations, reflecting RAC direction ▪ Complete section-by-section review of the draft initial regulations ▪ RAC direction on revisions to the draft initial regulations
April 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ DNREC presents a revised working draft of the initial regulations, reflecting RAC direction ▪ Resolve open issues
May 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ DNREC presents a revised working draft of the initial regulations, reflecting RAC direction ▪ Resolve remaining open issues
June 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ DNREC presents a revised working draft of the initial regulations, reflecting RAC direction ▪ Final review of the initial regulations ▪ RAC votes to approve the initial regulations for submission to the Secretary (7 Del. C. § 6622(a)) ▪ Identify and log minority opinion
July 2027	RAC Meeting	▪ Held in reserve if RAC did not approve the initial regulations in June. ▪ If approval was reached in June, the RAC confirms the transmittal package to DNREC Secretary
By July 31, 2027	RAC	▪ RAC submits the approved initial regulations, together with any minority opinions and the supporting record, to DNREC Secretary (7 Del. C. §§ 6621(n), 6622(a))