



**HO-CHUNK NATION CODE (HCC)  
TITLE 1 – ESTABLISHMENT ACTS  
SECTION 20 – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION ACT OF 2016**

**ENACTED BY LEGISLATURE: OCTOBER 18, 2016**

**CITE AS: 1 HCC § 20**

*This Act supersedes the Department of Heritage Preservation Organization Act of 1997 (HCNL 97-004) as enacted by Legislative Resolution 11-25-97C and most recently amended by Legislative Resolution 12-9-97F.*

**1. Authority.**

a. Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution (“Constitution”) grants the Legislature the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes.

b. Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive Branch to be administered by such Departments in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power.

c. Article V, Section 2(c) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to constitute a Board of Directors for each Department, except the President shall name the Executive Director, subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

d. Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget.

e. Article VI, Section 1(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to create Departments deemed necessary by the Legislature.

f. Article VI, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the President the power to administer all Departments, boards, and committees created by the Legislature.

**2. Purpose.** The Legislature establishes and organizes the Department of Natural Resources.

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3. **Vision Statement.** The Ho-Chunk Department of Natural Resources shall be responsible for managing, exercising stewardship, and applying sound conservation practices over all of the Nation's lands and natural resources, with the vision to provide long-term cultural, social, political, and economic stability of the Ho-Chunk Nation and conserve, preserve and protect natural resources for future generations.

4. **Internal Organization.**

a. The Department of Natural Resources shall consist of an Executive Director and such divisions, branches, and offices necessary for the execution of its mission, performance of its mandated functions, and to achieve its annual goals and objectives.

b. The Department shall employ staff professionals, support personnel, and/or contract with professional service firms as the Executive Director shall determine consistent with the Nation's Finance Manual, other laws of the Nation, and the Legislative approved budgetary authority.

c. The Department shall maintain a current Organizational Chart. The Organizational Chart shall accompany its annual budget submission and any budget modifications during the fiscal year in accordance with the Nation's Appropriations and Budget Process Act.

5. **Executive Director and Board of Directors.**

a. Executive Director.

(1) The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Legislature.

(2) The Executive Director shall be a full-time employee and paid compensation commensurate with his or her skills, education, experience, and responsibilities and within the standards of compensation established by the Legislature.

(3) The Executive Director shall be responsible for operating within the annually appropriated budget for the Department.

(4) The Executive Director shall serve as an ex officio member of the Department's Board of Directors.

b. Board of Directors. The President shall establish a Board of Directors for the Department of Natural Resources subject to confirmation by the Legislature pursuant to paragraph 1c.

(1) Role. The Board of Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director.

(a) The Board shall not be a policy making body.

(b) The Board shall be involved in the Department's strategic planning.

(c) The Board shall be consulted during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives required pursuant to the Appropriations and Budget Process Act.

(2) Qualifications. Directors shall have the requisite skills, knowledge, and education to provide professional and expert advice and recommendations to the Executive Director.

(3) Membership. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of five (5) Ho-Chunk Nation members selected by the Executive Director and approved by the President.

(a) A Director shall not be an employee of the Department of Natural Resources.

(b) A Director shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors.

(c) A Director shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the Department of Natural Resources.

(4) Terms. Directors shall serve two (2) year terms and may serve for more than one (1) term. The terms shall be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year and every two (2) years thereafter and three (3) Directors are appointed/re-appointed in the alternate years.

(5) Compensation. Directors shall be compensated for attendance at Board Meetings at a rate established by the Legislature. A Director must be present for a majority of the Meeting to receive compensation.

(6) Board Meetings.

(a) The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year and for special meetings as required and subject to the Board's By-Laws.

(b) Board Meetings shall be subject to the Nation's Open Meetings Act.

(c) Quorum. Quorum for the Board of Directors shall be four (4) of the five (5) Directors. Quorum must be attained and maintained to conduct business and for Directors to be eligible for compensation.

(d) Minutes. The Board shall publish Meeting Minutes for each Board Meeting. Minutes shall be submitted to the Office of the President and the Legislature. A copy of the Meeting Minutes must be attached to compensation pay vouchers.

(7) Every twelve (12) months the Board shall elect a Chairperson.

(8) The Directors shall be subject to the Nation's law regarding nepotism and conflicts of interest.

(9) Within sixty (60) days of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors shall submit the By-Laws of the Board to the Legislature for approval.

## **6. Strategic Planning and Reporting.**

a. The Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources who is confirmed by the Legislature following the passage of this act shall be responsible for creating a comprehensive strategic plan for the Department within six (6) months of his/her confirmation. This strategic plan shall at a minimum consist of the Departmental Mission Statement, goals of the Department in support of that mission, the actions necessary to achieve those goals, and a timeline to regularly review and update the strategic plan as necessary. The plan will be presented to the Legislative Development Committee upon completion.

b. On a quarterly basis, the Executive Director shall provide an update on progress made towards the annual goals and objectives as defined in the strategic plan and the annual budget request made in accordance with the Ho-Chunk Nation Appropriations and Budget Act.

c. The Executive Director shall conduct an annual review of the Departmental Strategic Plan and make any updates or revisions deemed necessary. The updated plan shall be presented to the Legislative Development Committee upon completion.

**7. Annual Report to the Nation.** The Department of Natural Resources shall submit through the President to the Legislature a final written annual report within thirty (30) days of the end of each fiscal year. It will report on the activities of the Department, achievement of the goals and objectives for the previous fiscal year, and the impact, if any, of fiscal constraints on its current goals and objectives.

Legislative History:

- 09.19.15 General Council adopts Resolution 09/19/2015-02 requesting an amendment to the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution which establishes a Department of Agriculture and a Department of Natural Resources.
- 10.20.15 Legislature acknowledges General Council Resolution 09/19/15-02 by adopting Resolution 10.20.15K pledging to create a workgroup for establishing a Department of Agriculture and a Department of Natural Resources.
- 10.20.15 Legislature adopts Resolution 10.20.15Q establishing a workgroup to plan for the creation of a Department of Agriculture and a Department of Natural Resources.
- 08.11.16 Legislature places a draft Department of Natural Resources Establishment Act out for a forty-five day public review period in accordance with Resolution 08.09.16H.
- 10.18.16 Legislature adopts Resolution 10.18.16K adopting the Department of Natural Resources Establishment and Organization Act.