



Standing committee, subcommittee, commission meetings canceled until April 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2020

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the chairpersons for the 24th Navajo Nation Council standing committees moved to cancel all meetings until April 5, 2020.

The Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker issued the notice on Wednesday following the approval and concurrence of committee leaders. The cancellations are part of earlier preventative measures implemented by the Legislative Branch relating to the COVID-19 outbreak. Council adopted rules that allowed committees to conduct official business through teleconferencing meetings.

“Every council delegate is on the ground in their communities doing essential work in coordinating information from multiple agencies, programs and relief efforts,” said Speaker Seth Damon. “The legislative branch views chapter leaders and community members as essential partners in the Nation’s effort to properly address this global pandemic.”

The Navajo Nation’s five standing committees include the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Law and Order Committee, and the Resources and Development Committee. Additionally, several subcommittees, such as the Diné Bizaad Subcommittee, the State Task Force and others will not be meeting during the same period.

All Legislative Branch programs were directed by Speaker Damon to close public offices last week until further notice. However, committees continued to meet requirements in the Navajo Nation Code for regular meetings. Those requirements were temporarily waived under a two-thirds vote at the Council’s Friday special session. The committee chairs used that waiver Wednesday to allow delegates and staff to focus on home and community work.

Meetings will only be authorized if the official business to be addressed relates to the current emergency declaration and the COVID-19 public health crisis.

For more information on COVID-19, go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov or the Navajo Nation Department of Health website at www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov. Information can also be obtained by calling the Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

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