

# The Vision



A newsletter of *A Vision for Clean Water*

Providing clean water and sanitation to those who need them through education and collaboration

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## A Vision for Clean Water Pilots a Navajo Nation COVID-19 Response

The Covid-19 virus has brought increased awareness to the lack of clean water access within Native American communities in the United States. The virus has had a severe impact on these native populations causing many tribal communities to close their borders to outside visitors. The Navajo Nation in the western United States has one of the highest per capita Covid-19 infection rates with over 6,600 cases and more than 300 deaths (at the time of this writing).

To reduce the transmission of the virus, AVFCW has begun a pilot program to bring permanently installed hand washing stations to the Navajo Chapter Houses. AVFCW is working with Plumbers Without Borders for the installation of these hand washing stations at community hose locations.

The Navajo Nation spans over 27,000 square miles in the states of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. The nation includes five agencies (regions) which are subdivided into 110 Chapters. There are more than 176,000 Native Americans that reside in the Navajo Nation's territory.

An estimated 1/3 of these residents lack plumbed residential water infrastructure. Many rural residents must replenish their domestic water supply by filling and transporting jerry cans from a community well located at their Chapter House. Some residents travel over 50 miles round trip to access this community water supply. These residents use a community hose located at the local Chapter House to wash their hands and then to fill their water containers. This activity makes using this shared community resource a potential transmission point for the Covid-19 virus.

A Vision for Clean Water and our supporters are very excited with this pilot project. We are doubly pleased that it can have a significant and lasting impact on reducing disease transmission among the Navajo people and promoting health in a larger way for this community.

*Written by Liz Tierney  
AVFCW Board Member*

## Water Challenges for Native American Communities



*Meghanlata Gupta, Native American historian, journalist, and organizer to speak on July 29*

Join A Vision for Clean Water and Troy Rotary Club in a presentation about the water challenges for Native American communities on Wednesday, July 29.

Our special guest speaker will be Meghanlata Gupta, who is an Indigenous historian, journalist, and organizer from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She is a senior at Yale University, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethnicity, Race and Migration. Her work is deeply rooted in efforts to increase Indigenous education and representation. She is also the founder of **Indigenizing the News.com**, a digital news source dedicated to increasing Indigenous visibility and raising awareness of Native nations, cultures, issues and knowledge systems.

**Everyone is invited.** Please visit the AVFCW website to register. We will send you a link that will allow you access to see Meghanlata which will work on Zoom or Facebook.

## WASH Program Design Online Workshop A Success

There was a void left in the water safety learning community because of the cancellation of AVFCW's latest workshop due to Covid-19.

So, the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), who supplies programs and instructors for workshops, formulated and executed a plan for an on-line workshop engaging instructors and participants who would log on safely from home.

Eileen Heasley and Liz Tierney of A Vision for Clean Water were excited to engage in this 5-week workshop with a group of experienced implementers with diverse project backgrounds. The workshop met twice a week utilizing Zoom conference calls, on-line whiteboard activities and small group breakout sessions.

Participants were able to gain glimpses into how other organizations handle project planning and hurdles, implementation of projects and post-project monitoring.

### Plans to Hold Cancelled Workshop Underway

Due to COVID-19 A Vision for Clean Water reluctantly had to postpone our workshop on Household Water Treatment and Drinking Water Quality Testing last Spring. We are currently making plans to reschedule this workshop locally and because we had 14 applicants from Haiti we are helping to plan the same workshop in Haiti. Dates have not been determined. For more information please contact [eheasley@avisionforcleanwater.org](mailto:eheasley@avisionforcleanwater.org).



### Donate to AVFCW

Make a [donation](#): Help us bring water stations to the Navajo Nation and quality training to those implementing water projects.

[avisionforcleanwater.org](http://avisionforcleanwater.org)

or

190 Paragon, Troy, MI 48098

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