

WUSD Storm Damage

During the most recent storm which hit Wickenburg a number of the District's facilities were impacted by the resulting build up of water. Water issues have plagued WUSD for a number of years, but on certain occasions have caused major damage – this was one of those years. At the Governing Board's most recent meeting these issues were discussed and a plan was forwarded by Director of Special Services, Bill Moran, to begin to correct some of the ongoing issues. The District intends to work in cooperation with the Town of Wickenburg and the Maricopa County Flood Control District as it seeks to solve these concerns. It is also our plan to engage a civil engineer as part of the process to more fully understand the scope of the issues and how they might best be resolved long-term.

The plan which was discussed with the Board focused on issues which have arisen at Hassayampa Elementary School, MacLennan School (Wickenburg Christian Academy) and Wickenburg High School. The issues at Hassayampa are the most difficult to address and potentially most costly. Although we believe we can figure out ways to divert water which comes on to the campus from Tegner St. and flows toward the parking lot, there is also a large amount of water which enters the campus from Valentine as it flows down the hill from Wickenburg Way. The result is that the Hassayampa parking lot becomes full with no good way to get the water to the river.

At MacLennan, our issues relate to the fact that the playground slopes down toward the school building and thus, on occasion, ends up spilling into adjacent classrooms. It looks as though a bar ditch used to exist which ran from the north down to Yavapai Street, but this ditch has been filled in with sediment and grass over the years. Fixing this issue should not be too difficult, but it will take some time and effort on the part of the District's maintenance staff.

The problems at Wickenburg High School are substantial, but should not be too tough to fix. At the point a storm hits, water rushes down from the ball fields along the access road and builds up at the bridge which connects the commons area with the G and H buildings. Once the buildup is of a substantial nature the water will cross the bridge and end up flooding the music room and on some occasions the Webb Center basement. The volume of water which was dumped by this storm caused a buildup of approximately 10' of water in the basement stairwell and the pressure broke the door and the water then flowed into the basement causing damage to the drywall and the basement contents. We believe if we can provide a route by which the water can get to the wash rather than crossing the bridge and also add an additional step outside the stairwell gate at the Webb Center we can alleviate many of these issues moving forward.

As this process progresses I will be sure to provide updated information regarding these issues as they are studied and ultimately resolved. It is our plan to implement some of the smaller fixes immediately, which will provide time for us to further discuss the bigger issues with the Town and the Flood Control District.