



8/23/2024

# Roxsand



## D & I Railroad Flood Recovery Update

Written by Scott Van Den Top

As requests for comments continue to come in about the current state of D & I Railroad flooding repairs, I wanted to provide a thorough update.

The current primary focus of track repair is a 2.5-mile stretch between Elk Point, SD and Westfield, IA. Track conditions from Canton, SD, to Westfield, IA, are satisfactory for traffic. Thus far, approximately 23,000 tons of ballast, a 2-3" clean rock used for track stabilization, has been utilized to fill in washouts. Another 5,000-7,000 tons will be needed to complete this section.

After washouts are filled, tie conditions need attention. Crossties are knocked out of the track by rolling flood water and during the process of filling washouts with rock. Rip Rap, approximately 2' boulders, will need to be placed or replaced as necessary to bolster areas prone to flood damage. Track repairs will continue until the line is returned to a pre-flood condition or better.

D & I operation strategies continue to adapt as completed track repairs open up operational flexibility. Trains are currently being operated between Dell Rapids, SD, and Hawarden, IA. Operations are run separately from Dell Rapids, SD, to Track 6 in Sioux City, IA, on the BNSF, by way of a detour arrangement on what is known as the Marshall Subdivision. The flexibility shown by the operating



Washout showing missing ties and high potential of ties being lost during washout filling operations



crews to work with the current nontypical operating schedule is appreciated each and every day.

A significant amount of progress has been made, but there remains a bit more to be accomplished. One critical piece to returning to normal operations is a new bridge in North Sioux City, SD. This bridge is on a BNSF track segment used by the D & I Railroad. The bridge collapsed during the flood and replacement progress is beginning to take shape, however, this will be a longer-term hurdle.

When I think back on the incredible amount of progress in the past 60 days, what I'm most proud of is the drive from the D & I operating department, locomotive/car shop, Track 6, Hawarden Cement, and MOW crews. Through collective brainstorming and brute force, it is their achievements that are leading the recovery efforts.

D & I operating crews stepped outside of their normal duties to assist with operations such as railcar modifications (to better facilitate filling track washouts), filling the washouts, and cleanup at the MOW shop after the Sioux River ran through it.

The crew from Sioux City Unload (Track 6) jumped in to help with railcar modifications and volunteered to help the MOW crew with tie replacements.

Hawarden Cement Terminal personnel assisted with rip rap unload on behalf of the Hawarden pit.

The Railcar/Locomotive Shop took their show on the road to stranded equipment to ensure compliance with required federal inspections was maintained.

Finally, the level of determination displayed by the MOW crew to get the line back in shape has been incredible. Thank you for providing direction and guidance to those unfamiliar with your line of work but stepped up to help anyway.

As efforts continue, I'll close by using a quote from Cyrus Kezar, LGE Safety Manager- "I'm not going to tell you that you are doing an outstanding job - you already know that!"



Modified gondola railcar - Excavator end of car is pushed to washout, where it placed rock from the car into the washout.



Left to right: Matt Buffington, Bob Kilber, Brady Locke (Track 6), Avery Millikan, Greg Arnold (Track 6), Clark Danielson. Not pictured is Donovan Merrow (Track 6)

Left to right-Clayton Peterson, Nick Hayes, Chuck Rose (aka Marshall Sub Aces)

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## Enhance Your Rest and Your Total Wellbeing

As a change of season is just 4 weeks away, students head back to school, and there is a lot of work yet to be done this summer, make sure you are taking care of yourself. Quality sleep is the foundation for a healthy balanced life, affecting your mood, energy balance, and cognitive abilities.

### 5 STEPS TO BETTER SLEEP



#### 01 Stick To A Sleep Schedule

Set and reinforce a time to go to bed and wake up each morning. Stick to your sleep schedule as much as possible, even on weekends, to reinforce your body's natural sleep-wake cycle.

#### 02 Watch What You Eat And Drink

Consuming large meals, caffeine, or alcohol close to bedtime can disrupt sleep by affecting digestion, stimulating the nervous system, or altering sleep cycles.

#### 03 Create A Restful Environment

Make your bedroom conducive to sleep by keeping it cool, dark, and quiet. Consider using blackout curtains, white noise machines, or earplugs if necessary.

#### 04 Monitor and Adjust

Pay attention to how you feel during the day and adjust your sleep schedule if needed to ensure you're getting enough restorative sleep.

## Birthdays

**Hayden Dwire - August 23**

Ace Ready Mix

**Elijah Orr - August 24**

Myrl & Roy's

**Tim Smith - August 24**

D & I Railroad

**Mark Bunkers - August 25**

Dell Rapids West

**Todd Brannan - August 26**

**Terry Schildhauer - August 27**

Dell Rapids West

**Tim Martin - August 27**

Sioux Falls

**Bob Hoffman - August 28**

Dell Rapids East

**Cory Holmberg - August 29**

Dell Rapids East

**Bruce Phouthavong - August 29**



Myrl & Roy's  
**William Dreyer - August 26**  
Myrl & Roy's  
**Beverly Nelson - August 26**  
Myrl & Roy's  
**Francis West - August 27**  
Myrl & Roy's

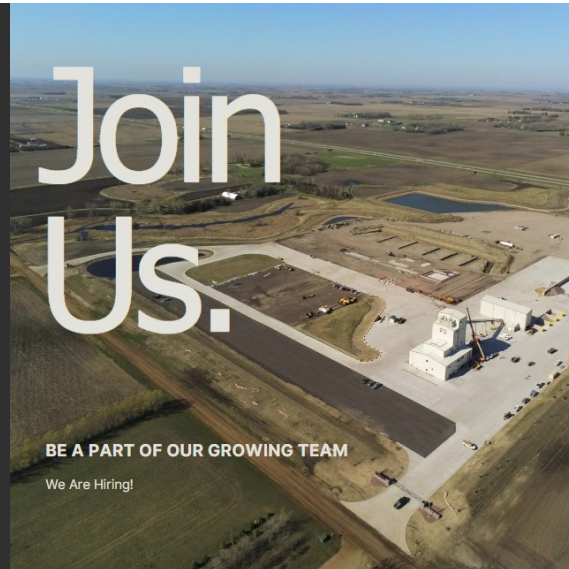
East Sioux Quarry  
**Artemio Aguilera Rodriguez - August 29**  
Myrl & Roy's  
**Javier Duran Jimenez - August 29**  
Fort Lupton

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