

Contact: Dennis Strauch
Pathfinder Irrigation District
Phone 308-623-1022
Fax 308-623-2028

Pathfinder Irrigation District

News Release

Pathfinder makes emergency repairs to Low Line Canal.

On June 22, 2018, the District was notified of a break in the lower canal bank on the Low Line Canal located 3 miles east on Highway L62A from the Highway 26 junction and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles north. The break was discovered by a local farmer around 5 am. District personnel made immediate cuts in the flow into the Low Line Canal along with other actions to eliminate the flow in the area of the break. District staff and equipment were immediately sent to the site to begin repairs. The break in the canal bank occurred approximately 30 miles below Lake Minatare and it took several hours to eliminate the flow to allow for the repair work to begin. Initially the District attempted to stop the breach in the bank by hauling and placing concrete rip-rap and hardpan in the break, but due to the depth of the cut through the bank District staff were unable to adequately compact the material to insure proper repair. By the afternoon of June 23rd a decision was made to construct a new canal upgradient and around the break to insure a proper repair and restore irrigation deliveries. Additional heavy equipment was moved to the site late in the afternoon of the 23rd, and construction of the reroute of the canal began on June 24th and was completed by June 25th with water flowing through the repaired canal by early that afternoon. Irrigation deliveries resumed on June 26th.

The cause of the break is not fully known. The canal was flowing at about 50% of normal capacity when the break occurred. The District speculates that

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roots from a tree located below the canal bank opened up a pathway for the break to occur. Significant damaged occurred as a result of the break to local property including farm ground and a nearby Morrill County road. The District would like to thank its staff for their efforts to make the repair as quickly as possible. The District would also like to thank the irrigators affected by the break for their patience and understanding.

Photo Gallery: