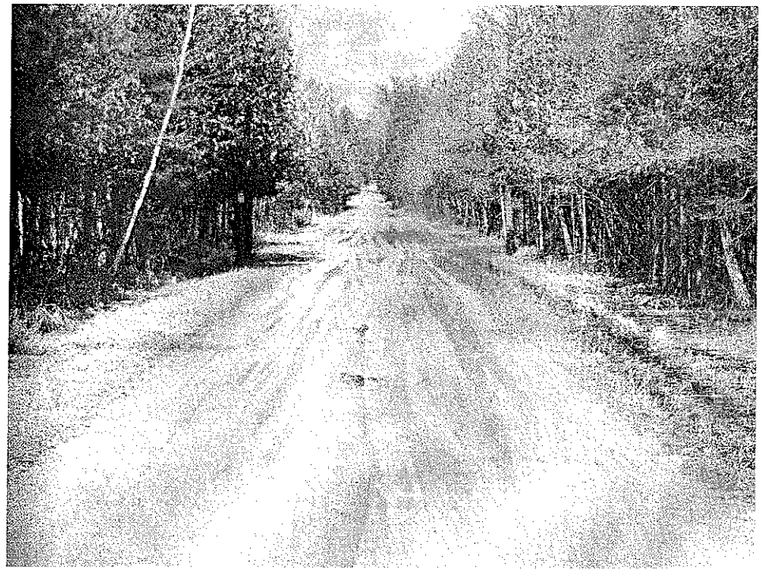
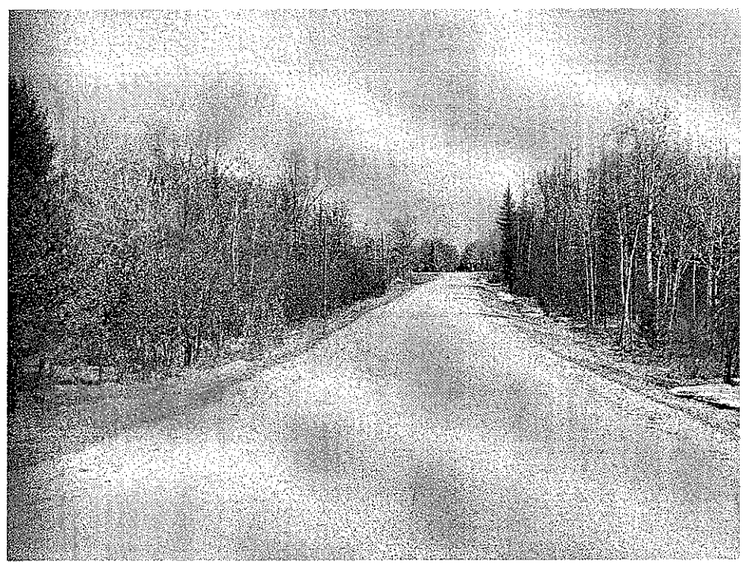
Wetlands Summary for the Menominee County Road Commission – April 8, 2011

Years ago, several of the existing roads in Menominee County were built in very low lying areas. Therefore, if a road located in a wetlands area was being considered for improvements, the road typically needed to be raised in elevation and widened in order to better accommodate motor vehicle traffic. Consequently, in several instances, wetland areas were impacted.

For the period from 10/1/2000 to 5/6/2005, the Menominee County Road Commission constructed a total of 17.78 acres of wetlands at a total cost to the Road Commission of $451,814. These wetlands were constructed as a result of existing wetlands areas being impacted by various road construction projects.

An example of a project where wetlands mitigation was required is as follows:

> In 2003-2004, the Menominee County Road Commission rebuilt and paved 1.02 miles of No. 12 Road, west of County Road 577. In the project, there were two (2) wetlands areas where mitigation was required due to raising the roadway elevation and increasing the width of the existing roadway [See Attachment No.'s 1 & 2]. Consequently, the Road Commission had to construct a mitigation site in order to address this issue. The additional cost to the project for the 0.62 acres of wetlands mitigation acreage was $24,723.

Beginning in 2005, due to the substantial costs that the Menominee County Road Commission was incurring with regards to wetlands mitigation associated with roadway improvements, the Road Commission began to modify their methods of roadway construction by utilizing more stabilization products (i.e. geo-grid), in addition to reducing the fill heights and proposed roadway widths to minimize their wetlands mitigation costs. Also, the Road Commission began to focus on utilizing their federal, state and local funds on projects that didn't require mitigation such as resurfacing, chip sealing, graveling, etc.

The ability to work within the right-of-way, without having to mitigate, would allow the Road Commission to address road issues such as water over existing roads and soft subgrades [See Attachment No.'s 3 & 4] whereby the Road Commission could raise the grade of the roadway without reducing the width or having to incur mitigation costs. Therefore, the Menominee County Road Commission supports SB 168 and HB 4303.