



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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Michigan Wetlands help bring road projects to life

LANSING, MI – This summer, the Michigan Wetland Board (MiWB) will complete the purchase of its newest bank site in the Manistee River Watershed to create a 65-acre forested wetland, benefiting 17 county public transportation agencies and other local road agencies. This comes on the heels of MiWB facilitating its 100th road project last fall, and crediting another 27 projects since.

MiWB plays a pivotal role in helping local road agencies bring projects to life without costly delays due to environmental concerns.

The brainchild of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan, MiWB was created in 2016, with backing from the State Legislature, to purchase, preserve and restore wetland sites. Legislation was passed to provide \$2 million annually for MiWB from the Michigan Transportation Fund. MiWB wetland sites provide mitigation credits to local road agencies free of charge so that road projects may move forward, avoiding what was previously a costly and time-consuming wait to address wetland impacts during roadwork.

“MiWB’s goal is to effectively and efficiently distribute funds to local transportation agencies, creating a system that cooperatively addresses transportation wetland impacts,” said MiWB manager Holly Vickers. “This program is a win-win for road agencies and the environment.”

This fall, MiWB will cut the ribbon on its next site, the Oakwood Wetland Mitigation Bank, a 15-acre forested wetland mitigation bank in Oakland County, to benefit coming road projects done by 13 county public transportation agencies projects that may impact wetlands.

To learn more about MiWB, read the spring issue of *Crossroads* magazine, which can be viewed digitally or downloaded at micountyroads.org/Crossroads.

The 83 members of the County Road Association of Michigan represent the unified voice for a safe and efficient county transportation infrastructure system in Michigan, including appropriate stewardship of the public’s right-of-way in rural and urban Michigan. Collectively, Michigan’s county road agencies manage 75% of all roads in the state, including 90,000 miles of roads and 5,700 bridges. County road agencies also maintain the state’s highway system in 63 counties. Michigan has the nation’s fourth-largest local road system.

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