

# **2015 CONSERVATION POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

(Summaries of Resolutions; full text below)

## **Approved Resolutions**

### **#01: POSITION ON NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORIES IN MICHIGAN AND THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**

MUCC adopts the position to ban long-term disposal and deep geological repository (DGR's) of ALL grades (low-level, intermediate and high risk) radioactive waste in Michigan and the Great Lakes Basin.

### **#02: GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT (UNITS IN EASTERN U.P.)**

MUCC strongly urges the Michigan DNR and the Natural Resources Commission to add a new Wolf Management Unit that will include the east end of the Upper Peninsula in our future wolf hunting season.

### **#03: RESTORING STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE GRAY WOLF IN THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES STATES**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs calls on the United States Congress to enact legislation directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue its 2011 rule removing the gray wolf from the Federal Endangered Species list in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin and to provide that such rule is not subject to any judicial review. MUCC also fully supports the state's appeal to the court decision returning the grey wolf in the Western Great Lakes area to the endangered species list.

### **#04: MICHIGAN ELK MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs continues to support the recommendations included in the 2012 Elk Management Plan as adopted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and opposes all efforts to provide preferential treatment for the issuance of elk harvest tags which is based upon land ownership, crop loss reparation, or any other measures which would be contrary to the current Michigan resident lottery system which has been a key element of the success of Michigan's elk restoration program.

### **#06: TO SUPPORT ATV/ORV/OHV USE IN THE HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST**

MUCC requests and encourages the USDA Forest Service Hiawatha National Forest Managers to consider utilizing those trails and routes recommended by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Trail Sponsors for inclusion into the overall system; and encourages the USDA Forest Service Hiawatha National Forest Managers to also consider adoption of the Use Permit Process specific to motorized recreation on the designated system currently in place by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by means of entering a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is mutually understood and agreed by and between both parties with the exception of specific restrictions necessary to protect sensitive periods of time within a year that may impact the procreation of certain wildlife species not limited to but including the Kirtland Warbler.

### **#07: BEAR POPULATION DATA AND QUOTAS**

MUCC should work with stakeholders in the Michigan Bear Forum (or future advisory groups) to provide a consensus recommendation to the DNR on the desired future trend for the BMU and

Peninsula-level bear population that also acknowledges the many biological and social factors; and that MUCC recognize hunting as the primary tool for bear population management and that all legal methods of bear hunting have equal opportunities. Furthermore, recognizing that bears belong to all residents of the State of Michigan, no preference shall be given to private landowners regarding allocation of harvest tags.

**#09: SUPPORT FOR ALL METHODS OF BEAR HUNTING IN MICHIGAN**

MUCC should work with affiliated clubs and other members and stakeholders, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission to ensure that bear hunting using both hounds and bait is preserved as a legal method of take.

**#11: FULL DISCLOSURE (HYDRAULIC FRACTURING)**

MUCC should work with the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to insure that sound scientific management is utilized to protect our private and public lands; and that regulations include full disclosure of the chemicals utilized in the process to insure that they do not pose a health threat to the public; the Michigan Legislature should also consider re-evaluating Part 327 of Act 451 to include gas and oil companies in the water withdrawal statute.

**#12: A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE HUNTING LICENSES AT REDUCED PRICES FOR YOUTH HUNTERS**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should work with the DNR, NRC and the legislature to establish a lower hunting license fee for Michigan resident youth under the age of 17.

**#13: LAKE ERIE DUCK HUNTING**

MUCC should work with stakeholders in the Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee to provide a recommendation to the DNR and NRC to consider more duck hunting dates in December in the southern zone, provided a 60-day season continues.

**#16: LAKE ST. CLAIR COMBINED POSSESSION ON PIKE, WALLEYE, AND BASS**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should work to eliminate the combination bag limit in favor of specific bag limits in Lake St. Clair of five pike, six walleye, and five bass, per day.

**#17: THE EXPANSION OF AQUACULTURE IN MICHIGAN**

MUCC opposes any significant expansion of cage culture or flow-through aquaculture on the public waters of the state. MUCC should also 1) work with state and federal agencies, First Nations, sporting groups, universities, private industry and others to evaluate the potential expansion of aquaculture in Michigan and assist regulators with risk assessment, planning and compliance with water quality and disease prevention regulations, recreational impacts, and other associated issues; 2) assure that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources continues to have a strong and effective voice in the permitting and regulation of aquacultural practices which may be injurious to public natural resources - especially the waters of the state, aquatic organisms and sport fisheries upon which the fishing and boating industries depend; and 3) assure the protection of natural and developed populations of fish stocks and the accompanying recreational and commercial fishing and boating industries via establishment of compensation and mitigation procedures and monetary means to achieve these mitigations via adequate insurance policies or surety bonds procured by the aquaculture industry prior to any newly established aquaculture on, or discharging into the waters of the state.

### **#18: BELLE ISLE STATE PARK ENHANCEMENT PRIORITIZATION**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should encourage and support the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Belle Isle Conservancy, and Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee with the initiation of enhancements that will draw people from around the state and outside the state to the island, including operating or contracting with a third-party operator to offer the following on and around Belle Isle Park: ice skating on the canals, canoeing on the canals, new and improved public boat launches, campgrounds, and other recreational opportunities.

### **#19: SECOND AMENDMENT HOLIDAY**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Legislature to create a Second Amendment Holiday, in which the state sales tax would be waived on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, hunting, fishing, and trapping supplies during some period of time (i.e. a weekend in late August prior to hunting seasons or a single day two times per year).

### **#20: INCREASED RESTITUTION FOR MOOSE POACHING**

MUCC staff should work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Legislature to enact higher restitution payments for moose poaching, with restitution continuing to go into the Game and Fish Protection Fund. There should also be a lifetime loss of hunting privileges in Michigan, as well as the others states that are a part of the Wildlife Violator Compact Law.

### **#21: RESTITUTION INCREASE ON ELK POACHERS**

MUCC staff should work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Legislature to enact higher restitution payments for elk poaching, with restitution continuing to go into the Game and Fish Fund. There should also be a lifetime loss of hunting privileges in Michigan, as well as the others states that are a part of the Wildlife Violator Compact Law.

### **#22: INCREASED RESTITUTION FOR BEAR POACHERS**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should work with the Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Legislature to increase the restitution on bear poachers. Restitution should continue to go into the Michigan Game and Fish Protection Fund. MUCC should also work with DNR Law Enforcement and the Michigan Legislature (if necessary) to deter illegal bear harvest activities which harm the public's perception of legal bear hunting in order to protect the future of bear hunting in Michigan.

### **#23: MIGRATORY BIRD POACHERS**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Council (CWAC) to develop legislation that would charge poachers of migratory bird game species restitution of \$500 per animal.

### **#25: DOG COLLARS**

MUCC work to make it unlawful to remove any collar or electronic tracking device on a dog without permission from the owner.

### **#26: LIMIT HUNTING SAFETY ZONE APPLICATION TO HUNTING WITH FIREARMS**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should work with the Legislature, Natural Resources Commission and/or any other necessary decision-making bodies to limit the application of the hunting safety zone to hunting with firearms, and to reduce and/or eliminate the safety zone for hunting with archery equipment.

## **Failed Resolutions**

### **#05: SUPPORT OF DEER BAITING**

Resolution was withdrawn due to the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a deer in Ingham County.

### **#08: INCREASING UP BEAR LICENSE QUOTAS**

Resolution was withdrawn by the maker in light of the Natural Resources Commission adoption of the 2015 Bear Harvest Quotas on April 9, 2015.

### **#10: COME HOME TO HUNT**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should enter into a conversation with the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to study the feasibility of developing a Michigan Come Home to Hunt program to allow former residents to purchase hunting licenses at the resident prices based upon an established threshold residency requirement not on property ownership.

### **#14: SAFETY GREEN FOR HUNTING**

MUCC should work with the Michigan Legislature and DNR to include safety green clothing (also known as highway green or fluorescent lime) as an option for hunting.

### **#15: ELIMINATE SPEARING FOR MUSKELLUNGE IN MICHIGAN WATERS**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs should work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resource Commission to oppose further opening of waters to muskellunge spearing, oppose any change to muskellunge angling seasons that would create a de facto expansion of muskellunge spearing and oppose the continuation of current lawful muskellunge spearing on any waters that have seen a decline in muskellunge population.

### **#24: TURN IN POACHERS (TIPS) REPORTING OPTION**

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) staff should work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Legislature to enact a TIPS reward system in very limited circumstances where a high value tag (such as elk) could be a reward for valuable information leading to a conviction of a poacher; the TIPS reporting option should not be granted if it would reduce the awarding of licenses through the regular lottery system for the given species.

# **MUCC's 2015 CONSERVATION POLICY**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution #01** **Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Debbie Hayes, District 8 DFR  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **POSITION ON NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORIES IN MICHIGAN AND THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Basin is the largest fresh water source in North America with 40 million people in two countries relying on the Great Lakes for drinking water; and  
**WHEREAS**, the eight Great Lakes States and two Canadian provinces worked to establish a bi-national water withdrawal policy for the Great Lakes Basin; and  
**WHEREAS**, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is planning a deep geologic repository (DGR) for low and intermediate nuclear waste at the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant Site; and  
**WHEREAS**, the planned site is less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kicardine, Ontario; and  
**WHEREAS**, every deep underground nuclear waste repository in the world has leaked, including the model for the proposed DGR, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIIP), located in New Mexico; and  
**WHEREAS**, the current DGR proposal is undergoing an Environmental Assessment with two weeks of public hearings scheduled to begin September 9, 2014; and  
**WHEREAS**, Senator Pavlov has introduced SB 948 (2014) to stop the construction of the Kicardine DGR, ban the long-term disposal of ALL low-level radioactive waste in Michigan, ban the importation of radioactive waste into Michigan, create a Great Lakes Advisory Board to study the impact of such a facility and to urge the President and Congress to start an investigation of the proposed facility. NOW,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) adopts the position to ban long-term disposal and deep geological repository (DGR's) of ALL grades (low-level, intermediate and high risk) radioactive waste in Michigan and the Great Lakes Basin.

### **Resolution #02** **Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Straits Area Sportsmen's Club  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT (UNITS IN EASTERN U.P.)**

**WHEREAS**, wolves are more plentiful and more aggressive than usual this year; and  
**WHEREAS**, the social carrying capacity has been exceeded; and  
**WHEREAS**, some measure of control should be enacted east of Wolf Management Unit C; and

**WHEREAS**, there is approximately 80 miles in the Eastern Upper Peninsula left out of the wolf management area; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been many dog depredations in this area not accounted for; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) counts and reports on dog depredations, but they are not counted unless verified by the Michigan DNR; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these attacks by wolves have been witnessed by the dog owners and have not been recognized as fact; and

**WHEREAS**, areas to exercise and hunt with our pets are now becoming very limited; and

**WHEREAS**, it is tough to put a monetary value on our dogs, which can exceed thousands of dollars, and many dog hunting groups spend several thousand dollars each year to train their dogs in the Eastern Upper Peninsula with lodging, food, and gas; and

**WHEREAS**, they may not be returning to the Eastern U.P.; and

**WHEREAS**, left unchecked, wolves have become out of control, preying on livestock, our pets, and venturing too close to residential areas. NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) strongly urge the Michigan DNR and the Natural Resources Commission to add a new Wolf Management Unit that will include the east end of the Upper Peninsula in our 2015 wolf hunting season; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC also supports the further expansion of Wildlife Management Units, where justified and appropriate based on sound scientific evidence.

**Resolution #03**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: George Lindquist, Statewide Vice President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **RESTORING STATE MANAGEMENT OF THE GRAY WOLF IN THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES STATES**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is a strong supporter of scientific and professional management of wildlife species including the recovery of the gray wolf under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources developed sound wolf management recovery plans that were approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and were successfully implemented by the respective state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this successful restoration of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, by federal rule, delisted the gray wolf in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin four times between 2003 and 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, each such delisting of the gray wolf was challenged in Federal Court on technical grounds, not based on its recovery status but on administrative or legal technicalities, which resulted in Federal Court decisions returning the gray wolf to the Federal Endangered Species list and removing state management of the species; and

**WHEREAS**, the latest Federal Court decision relisting the gray wolf on the Federal Endangered Species list occurred on December 19, 2014 with the court ruling that the gray wolf could not be

removed from the Federal Endangered Species list until it had been fully recovered in its full historic range in 29 Eastern and Central states; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this latest court decision, state permits authorizing lethal control of wolves depredating livestock are no longer authorized, state laws authorizing land owners to kill wolves in the act of attacking domestic animals are no longer valid and state laws allowing management of wolf populations through harvest regulation no longer are valid; and

**WHEREAS**, based on recent and extensive experience, without state lethal methods of management, wolves will continue to cause significant depredation of domestic animals and potential threat to humans in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, in a similar situation involving state management of wolves in the states of Idaho and Montana, the United States Congress passed a law which statutorily directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to reissue its rule (from 2009) delisting wolves in those states and secondly, prohibited any judicial review of such rule; and

**WHEREAS**, this type of legislation recognizes sound professional management of wolves by state and federal agencies while still upholding the basic intent and principles of the Federal Endangered Species Act and ensures that states can assure the long-term recovery of the species while still protecting domestic animals and humans. NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs calls on the United States Congress to enact legislation directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue its 2011 rule removing the gray wolf from the Federal Endangered Species list in the states of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin and to provide that such rule is not subject to any judicial review; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC fully supports the state's appeal to the court decision returning the grey wolf in the Western Great Lakes area to the endangered species list.

#### **Resolution # 04**

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **MICHIGAN ELK MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan has historically been a part of the native range of North American elk (*Cervus canadensis*); and

**WHEREAS**, elk were extirpated from the State of Michigan at the end of the 19th Century; and

**WHEREAS**, elk were reintroduced to the State of Michigan in 1918 and at one time represented the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's successful elk restoration efforts have become a model for other eastern states; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's elk herd now represents an important component of the regional tourism economy as well as a significant wildlife conservation achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, a public engagement process was initiated in 2010 and resulted in a new Elk Management plan which was adopted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 elk management planning team included members from a diverse group of stakeholders including representatives from not only the sportsmen's community, but agricultural producers, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), large private landowners within the elk range, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, concerns voiced by landowners and agricultural operators regarding elk-human conflicts in part led to the plan's recommendation to reduce the population management goal from 800 to 900 as established in 1988, to 500 to 900; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous cooperative measures have been established through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to reduce the adverse impacts that elk may have on agricultural activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Management Plan stated that absent a public safety issue all elk taken by lethal means should be limited to the traditional Michigan elk hunt system. NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs continue to support the recommendations included in the 2012 Elk Management Plan as adopted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC oppose all efforts to provide preferential treatment for the issuance of elk harvest tags which is based upon land ownership, crop loss reparation, or any other measures which would be contrary to the current Michigan resident lottery system which has been a key element of the success of Michigan's elk restoration program.

#### **Resolution #06**

Submitted by: Tim Kobasic, Region I Director at Large, on behalf of Hiawathaland Trail Association

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **TO SUPPORT ATV/ORV/OHV USE IN THE HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST**

**WHEREAS**, the Hiawatha National Forest was derived from land acquisition and designation by the Federal Government first as the Marquette National Forest in 1908 and then to the Hiawatha National Forest in 1931; and

**WHEREAS**, under contemporary management there is a growing appreciation of the Hiawatha National Forests' significance as public open space, playgrounds, and of their ecological and scientific resources; and

**WHEREAS**, through the forest planning process, forest staff, and forest users are struggling to identify the appropriate roles – environmental, social and economic – individual forests should play now and in the next century; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears that the ecological, aesthetic, wildlife and recreation values are somewhat subjective in interpretation among individual National Forest Managers; and

**WHEREAS**, the order of those values is of growing debate between the National Forest Managers and public users; and



**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan and Motorized Trails Sponsor Organizations have worked in concert with the USDA Forest Service who manage the Hiawatha Forest in the establishment of designated motorized trails and routes; and

**WHEREAS**, these same designated trails and routes follow strict guidelines for management and use and are maintained by the user groups who support safe and ethical use as conservationists; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hiawatha National Forest Road Study is currently under consideration to prioritize road maintenance and perhaps closure of some roads that are classified under five different levels; and

**WHEREAS**, additions to those roads currently classified as designated routes open to ATV/ORV/OHV use would follow the same use and maintenance criteria of those already in existence; and

**WHEREAS**, allowable use currently in place on State of Michigan Designated Motorized Trails and Routes is not an automatically accepted policy of the USDA Forest Service Hiawatha National Forest Management. NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) requests and encourages the USDA Forest Service Hiawatha National Forest Managers to consider utilizing those trails and routes recommended by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Trail Sponsors for inclusion into the overall system; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourages the USDA Forest Service Hiawatha National Forest Managers to also consider adoption of the Use Permit Process specific to motorized recreation on the designated system currently in place by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by means of entering a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is mutually understood and agreed by and between both parties with the exception of specific restrictions necessary to protect sensitive periods of time within a year that may impact the procreation of certain wildlife species not limited to but including the Kirtland Warbler.

**Resolution # 07**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Michigan Bear Hunters Association, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and U.P. Bear Houndsmen Association

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **BEAR POPULATION DATA AND QUOTAS**

**WHEREAS**, the population goal and desired trend for bears within Bear Management Units (BMU) and at the Peninsula-level are based on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists and stakeholder input and should be in line with the available habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan DNR uses many factors in determining recommendations for the local BMU license quotas to meet the population goal, including stakeholder input at the Michigan Bear Forum, mast abundance, biological data from harvested bears, human-bear conflicts, hunter harvest success rates, tetracycline baits (U.P.), baited hair snares (L.P.), biologists' observations, and public input; and

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Peninsula Predator-Prey study (which began in 2008 and continues today) provides high quality research that indicates that the predation from bears on white-tailed deer is small relative to other impacts on the U.P. deer population such as severe winters, poor

nutrition, lack of high quality deer wintering complexes, and other predation, and evidence to date has suggested that coyotes kill more fawns than bears do in the U.P; and **WHEREAS**, in December 2014, researchers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources presented data from a new population model for bear in Michigan; and **WHEREAS**, this statistical reconstruction of Michigan's bear population is a newly developed method to determine the Peninsula-level population, but currently cannot extract precise population estimates at the bear management unit (BMU) or county level. NOW, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with stakeholders in the Michigan Bear Forum (or future advisory groups) to provide a consensus recommendation to the DNR on the desired future trend for the BMU and Peninsula-level bear population that also acknowledges the many biological and social factors; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC recognize hunting as the primary tool for bear population management and that all legal methods of bear hunting have equal opportunities. Furthermore, recognizing that bears belong to all residents of the state of Michigan, no preference shall be given to private landowners regarding allocation of harvest tags.

### **Resolution #09**

Submitted by: Michigan Bear Hunters Association, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and U.P. Bear Houndsmen Association

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **SUPPORT FOR ALL METHODS OF BEAR HUNTING IN MICHIGAN**

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the citizens of the State of Maine were faced with a citizen-initiated law on the November ballot that would have banned "the use of bait, dogs or traps in bear hunting except to protect property, public safety or for research"; and **WHEREAS**, For the second time in 10 years, Maine voters resoundingly rejected a ballot initiative backed and bankrolled by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS); and **WHEREAS**, in 1996, Michigan voters had a similar opportunity to vote down Proposal D in favor of Proposal G that stated the NRC should have the exclusive authority to manage our wildlife populations using sound science; and **WHEREAS**, Since 1990, several states have lost the opportunity to utilize dogs and bait while bear hunting due to the work of HSUS, including California, Massachusetts, Colorado, Oregon and Washington; and **WHEREAS**, Michigan is only one of eight states that continue to allow the use of both bait AND hounds for the purposes of bear hunting and continues to be a target for HSUS' anti-hunting political activity after the wolf debate; and **WHEREAS**, Unlike in white-tailed deer, Michigan's biologists have not stated any concerns to date with bear baiting in terms of wildlife disease transmittance as long as the current regulations are followed, but have recommended that hunters not use dark chocolate in bear baits due to a low risk that cubs and non-target wildlife might be affected. NOW, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, U.P. Bear Houndsmen Association and other members and stakeholders, the Michigan Department of

Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission to ensure that bear hunting using both hounds and bait is preserved as a legal method of take.

**Resolution #11**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Dawn D. Levey, Past President  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **FULL DISCLOSURE (HYDRAULIC FRACTURING)**

**WHEREAS**, vertical fracking has been an accepted method of natural gas extraction in the State of Michigan, with very little impact on the environment, for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in hydraulic fracking is prompting concern in the public sector and within the scientific community due to use of excessive amounts of water and undisclosed chemicals; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs supports sound scientific wildlife management which should also include the valuable natural resources of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, current regulations do not address full disclosure of chemicals used in the process and the excessive use of water that cannot be returned to the water cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, Withdrawal of water for oil and gas operations is exempt from the requirements of Michigan's water withdrawal statute (Part 327 of Act 451). NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to insure that sound scientific management is utilized to protect our private and public lands; and that regulations include full disclosure of the chemicals utilized in the process to insure that they do not pose a health threat to the public; and

**BE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**; that the Michigan Legislature consider re-evaluating Part 327 of Act 451 to include gas and oil companies in the water withdrawal statute.

**Resolution #12**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Furmer Reed, District  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE HUNTING LICENSES AT REDUCED PRICES FOR YOUTH HUNTERS**

**WHEREAS** hunter recruitment is an important part of maintaining our hunting tradition and heritage; and

**WHEREAS** a large part of hunter recruitment is with our youth in that if we can get them started as youths they will be more likely to continue to hunt as adults; and

**WHEREAS** our youth today that are past the mentored youth age have to pay as much for their licenses as adults; and

**WHEREAS** our youth hunters pay the same amount as out of state youth; and  
**WHEREAS** youth to the age of 17 do not have to buy any fishing licenses. NOW,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the  
DNR, NRC and the legislature to establish a lower hunting license fee for Michigan resident  
youth under the age of 17.

**Resolution # 13**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Scott Kallenberg, MUCC District 2 Chair  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **LAKE ERIE DUCK HUNTING**

**WHEREAS**, Each year, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) works with the  
Citizen's Waterfowl Advisory Council (CWAC) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to  
establish season dates and bag limits for Michigan waterfowl hunting, within the United States  
Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) federal framework; and  
**WHEREAS**, Waterfowl hunting zones are reviewed on a 5-year basis and the next review will  
be in 2017; and  
**WHEREAS**, In 2014, the duck season ended on December 7, 2014 in the southern zone, with a  
later 2-day split on December 27-28; and  
**WHEREAS**, Historically, Ohio's duck season starts later and is open through the month of  
December and Ontario has a longer season that also includes the entire month of December  
and beyond; and  
**WHEREAS**, migrating ducks do not arrive in Lake Erie until the Michigan southern zone hunting  
season has closed. NOW,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with  
stakeholders in the CWAC to provide a recommendation to the DNR and NRC to consider more  
duck hunting dates in December in the southern zone, provided a 60-day season continues.

**Resolution # 16**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Bill Furtaw, Chairman District 8  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **LAKE ST. CLAIR COMBINED POSSESSION ON PIKE, WALLEYE, AND  
BASS**

**WHEREAS**, there are too many predator fish (pike, muskie, bass, and walleye) in Lake St. Clair;  
and  
**WHEREAS**, muskie, bass, and pike are catch and release in Lake St. Clair because they are  
big trophy fish; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Department of Natural Resources does not plant fish in Lake St. Clair because  
the population reproduces naturally; and

**WHEREAS**, perch have too many predators in Lake St. Clair, including humans; and  
**WHEREAS**, perch numbers are fast declining in Lake St. Clair; and  
**WHEREAS**, fishermen let pike go and keep walleye to fill the combination bag limit; and  
**WHEREAS**, fishermen will eat walleye, but not pike in summer months; and  
**WHEREAS**, the two pike per day limit is wrong for Lake St. Clair. NOW,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work to change the combination bag limits to five pike, six walleye, and five bass, per day.

**Resolution #17**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Gary Towns, Matt Lubaway and Eric Braden, the Board of Directors of the  
Metro-West Steelheaders and MUCC District 1  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **THE EXPANSION OF AQUACULTURE IN MICHIGAN**

**WHEREAS**, Aquaculture had grown tremendously around the world in recent decades and now meets nearly half the world's seafood demand; and  
**WHEREAS**, marketing projections indicate that the demand will continue to grow; and  
**WHEREAS**, recently there is more and more interest in farming aquatic organisms in Michigan; and  
**WHEREAS**, expansion of aquaculture enterprises could lead to economic growth and job creation in Michigan; and  
**WHEREAS**, Michigan has abundant aquatic resources which could supply an expansion of aquacultural activities; and  
**WHEREAS**, many types of aquaculture exist from closed indoor systems, to pond culture, to flow-through pond/lake culture, to open lake net pens; and  
**WHEREAS**, many of these aquacultural techniques and enterprises have at least some potential impacts on the surrounding natural ecosystem and recreational use of natural resources; and  
**WHEREAS**, Michigan governmental agencies and the federal government have worked long and hard to strongly protect Michigan's water resources and associated ecosystem from pollution, invasive species and genetic manipulation of wild stocks of aquatic organisms; and  
**WHEREAS**, since some past aquacultural enterprises in Michigan have resulted in disease transference to wild stocks, pollution to public waterways and releases of domesticated stocks into natural waters; and  
**WHEREAS**, releases of domesticated or transgenic fish stocks into the environment may result in issues with cross breeding and reduction of genetic fitness in wild fish populations; and  
**WHEREAS**, releases of excessive fish waste and unused fish foods from concentrated fish rearing facilities can cause high biological oxygen demand in surrounding and/or downstream public waters, reducing dissolved oxygen content and thereby negatively affecting native fish and wildlife populations; and

**WHEREAS**, any aquaculture enterprise on public waterways will restrict the public use of such waters and thereby diminish recreational use; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment and success of one aquacultural operation in a specific region will likely lead to the desire for more development in the same region and the potential cumulative effects of aforementioned water quality, fish genetics and public use issues would be compounded and cumulative in these regions raising the need for strong safeguarding policies for water quality, native species, public recreation, etc. ; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's many lakes and streams are extremely diverse in nutrient content, biological resiliency, diversity of species, thermal dynamics, watershed influences, socially acceptable uses; long-established recreational values; and many other factors, and these factors must be considered when proposing the location of any aquacultural practice. NOW, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, MUCC works with state and federal agencies, First Nations, sporting groups, universities, private industry and others to evaluate the potential expansion of aquaculture in Michigan and assist regulators with risk assessment, planning and compliance with water quality and disease prevention regulations, recreational impacts, and other associated issues;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC works to assure that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources continues to have a strong and effective voice in the permitting and regulation of aquacultural practices which may be injurious to public natural resources - especially the waters of the state, aquatic organisms and sport fisheries upon which the fishing and boating industries depend;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC works to assure the protection of natural and developed populations of fish stocks and the accompanying recreational and commercial fishing and boating industries via establishment of compensation and mitigation procedures and monetary means to achieve these mitigations via adequate insurance policies or surety bonds procured by the aquaculture industry prior to any newly established aquaculture on, or discharging into the waters of the state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC opposes any significant expansion of cage culture or flow-through aquaculture on the public waters of the state.

### **Resolution # 18**

Submitted by: Michael Doyle, Region 4 Director at Large

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **BELLE ISLE STATE PARK ENHANCEMENT PRIORIZATION**

**WHEREAS**, Belle Isle is a 982-acre island in the Detroit River, managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel recommended "...state and local agencies should invest in and support locally driven public-private efforts to develop "Signature Parks" in four or five cities which are hallmark places of beauty, activity, community gathering and pride, and safety in core urban areas"; and

**WHEREAS**, Belle Isle is a crown jewel and an example of a potential “Signature Park” that deserves that kind of investment and recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies have been invested in Belle Isle, so these investments should be protected for continued recreation and enjoyment; and

**WHEREAS**, Belle Isle’s infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and requires significant financial resources to bring the facilities up satisfactory level of operation; and

**WHEREAS**, meticulous planning of work is in place and certain enhancements should take priority. NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs encourage and support the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Belle Isle Conservancy, and Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee with the initiation of enhancements that will draw people from around the state and outside the state to the island; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Detroit or the State of Michigan consider operating or contracting with a third-party operator to offer the following on and around Belle Isle Park:

- ice skating on the canals,
- canoeing on the canals,
- new and improved public boat launches,
- campgrounds, and
- other recreational opportunities.

**Resolution # 19**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Dick Cupka, Tri-County Sportsmen's League Pistol Chairman and Jim Pryce,  
MUCC Region IV Vice President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **SECOND AMENDMENT HOLIDAY**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan’s hunters, anglers, and trappers help drive the State of Michigan’s economy during their seasons; and

**WHEREAS**, very frequently those very same sportspeople need to replace old equipment prior to the new seasons, which is costly in some cases; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation of this type is working in South Carolina, where in 2008, they enacted a Second Amendment Holiday and saw a 650 percent increase in sales; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi enacted similar legislation in 2014, and Texas has legislation in progress. NOW,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Legislature to create a Second Amendment Holiday, in which the state sales tax would be waived on firearms, ammunition, firearms safes, trigger locks, archery equipment, hunting, fishing, and trapping supplies during some period of time (i.e. a weekend in late August prior to hunting seasons or a single day two times per year).

**Resolution # 20**

**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region IV Vice President  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **INCREASED RESTITUTION FOR MOOSE POACHING**

**WHEREAS**, Moose were named a game species by the Michigan Legislature in 2010; and  
**WHEREAS**, there has not been an open hunting season since that time due to slow or no growth in the moose population in the Upper Peninsula; and  
**WHEREAS**, Michigan's moose herd is being targeted by poachers and a stiffer restitution policy may act as a deterrent; and  
**WHEREAS**, the penalty at this time is 90 days to 1 year in jail, a \$ 1,000-\$5,000 fine (civil fines go to libraries), and restitution to the Game and Fish Protection Fund of \$ 1,500. The poacher is prohibited from buying any hunting license for the remainder of that year they are convicted and the next 3 calendar years; and  
**WHEREAS**, this monetary restitution to the Game and Fish Protection Fund for a poached moose is still much less than a deer under the new white-tailed deer restitution based on antler points that was advocated for by MUCC and implemented in 2014. NOW,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC staff work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Legislature to enact higher restitution payments for moose poaching, with restitution continuing to go into the Game and Fish Protection Fund.

Components of this could include:

- A \$5000 restitution payment for poaching a cow moose, with an additional \$5000 for any antlered moose.
- A graduated trophy payment based on a metric or series of metrics, such as antler spread, number of points, and/or palm width/length.
- A lifetime loss of hunting privileges in Michigan, as well as the others states that are a part of the Wildlife Violator Compact Law.

**Resolution # 21**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region IV Vice President  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **RESTITUTION INCREASE ON ELK POACHERS**

**WHEREAS**, in November 2013, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law a new restitution fee for white-tailed deer poaching; and  
**WHEREAS**, the elk herd appears to be the next targeted animal on the poachers list given four recent poaching incidents in Fall 2014; and  
**WHEREAS**, the restitution at the present time for poaching an elk is \$ 1,500, but a graduated restitution similar to the newly adopted whitetail deer penalty would be appropriate and may deter trophy poaching; and



**WHEREAS**, a proposal to increase the elk restitution payment should necessarily be more severe than whitetails due to the relatively small population of elk in Michigan and the rare and once in a lifetime opportunity to hunt them; NOW,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) staff work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Legislature to enact higher restitution payments for elk poaching, with restitution continuing to go into the Game and Fish Fund. Components of this could include:

- Increasing the existing \$1,500 restitution payment for poaching any elk to up to \$5,000, with an additional \$3,500 for any antlered elk.
- A graduated trophy payment: for example an elk that is a 4X4 or 5X5 could be \$250 per 1 inch point, and 6X6 or larger would be \$500 per point
- A lifetime loss of hunting privileges in Michigan, as well as the others states that are a part of the Wildlife Violator Compact Law.

**Resolution # 22**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region IV Vice President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **INCREASED RESTITUTION FOR BEAR POACHERS**

**WHEREAS**, Bears are being illegally harvested and bear parts are being sold to Asian countries for pills that supposedly have healing qualities; and

**WHEREAS**, harvesting cubs or sows with cubs is also considered poaching; and

**WHEREAS**, the current restitution for poaching a bear in Michigan is only \$ 1,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the average size of a female bear is 90 - 130 lbs, while a male bear's average size can be 130 - 500 lbs., so the restitution averages out to \$17 per pound on a small 90 lb. bear.

NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Legislature to increase the restitution on bear poachers, increasing it proportionately based on the bear's size. Restitution should continue to go into the Michigan Game and Fish Protection Fund. The components of this proposal might include:

- Restitution on any bear increase to \$ 3,000
- Addition of a trophy restitution of \$20 per pound for any bear.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with DNR Law Enforcement and the Michigan Legislature (if necessary) to deter illegal bear harvest activities which harm the public's perception of legal bear hunting in order to protect the future of bear hunting in Michigan.

**Resolution # 23**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region IV Vice President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015

Title: **MIGRATORY BIRD POACHERS**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan waterfowl hunters purchase a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp, a.k.a. Waterfowl/Duck Stamp; and  
**WHEREAS**, they must also purchase a Michigan Waterfowl License; and  
**WHEREAS**, in 2014, there was an egregious example of poaching when two men illegally shot 18 redhead ducks (14 over their daily limit); and  
**WHEREAS**, there has been an increase of migratory birds being killed illegally—shot, clubbed with baseball bats and golf clubs, and run over by watercraft or vehicles, with minimum punishment,  
**WHEREAS**, current law establishes restitution for migratory bird game species of not less than \$100.00 or more than \$500.00 per animal. NOW,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Council (CWAC) to develop legislation that would charge poachers of migratory bird game species restitution of \$500 per animal.

**Resolution # 25**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Michigan State United Coon Hunters Association  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **DOG COLLARS**

**WHEREAS**, hunting dogs commonly wear collars with the owners name and phone number to help get lost dogs reunited with their owners; and  
**WHEREAS**, many dogs also wear recovery or locating collars to help handlers keep from losing their dogs; and  
**WHEREAS**, training collars are also used to prevent dogs from chasing non-target animals and to help prevent dogs from entering private property; and  
**WHEREAS**, there is a problem with people finding hunting dogs and removing their collars; and  
**WHEREAS**, without these collars, It is difficult for the owner to control or locate their dog; and,  
**WHEREAS**, it jeopardizes the safety of the dogs. NOW,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC work to make it unlawful to remove any collar or device on a dog without permission from the owner.

**Resolution #26**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association, Michigan Bow Hunters and Michigan Hunting Dog Federation  
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 20, 2015  
Title: **LIMIT HUNTING SAFETY ZONE APPLICATION TO HUNTING WITH FIREARMS**

**WHEREAS**, the 150-yard safety zone for hunting around buildings in Michigan was originally enacted in the Game Law of 1929, 1929 PA 286, Sec 10b; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the safety zone law was “the control and limitation of the discharge of weapons in the hunting and taking of wild birds and wild game,” (Attorney General Opinion No. 5960, 1981); and

**WHEREAS**, the primary tool (“weapon”) used for hunting wild birds and game at that time was a firearm; and

**WHEREAS**, the 150-yard distance was enacted in contemplation of hunting with firearms; and

**WHEREAS**, trapping falls under the definition of “hunting,” in state statute, and is thus subject to the 150-yard safety zone; and

**WHEREAS**, the definition of hunting includes “pursuing,” and ambiguity exists as to whether free-cast hunting dogs within the safety zone violate the existing safety zone as written; and

**WHEREAS**, typical shot distances for archery equipment are less than 50 yards and often from an elevated platform with a downward trajectory; and

**WHEREAS**, the 150-yard safety zone is unnecessary to ensure safety around buildings from trapping, free-cast hunting dogs or archery equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the 150-yard safety zone unreasonably restricts a private property owner and/or his/her guests from trapping, free-casting hunting dogs and hunting with archery equipment when within that distance from a neighbor’s building; and

**WHEREAS**, a neighbor who disapproves of trapping or hunting can use the 150-yard safety zone to prevent a private property owner and/or his/her guests from hunting with archery equipment or trapping on private property despite the absence of any safety risk to the neighbor; and

**WHEREAS**, urban and suburban neighborhoods are experiencing increased conflicts with deer and other game species due to expanded development and distances between buildings often being within the safety zone where wildlife cannot currently be managed through hunting with archery equipment or trapping without written permission from each building owner; and

**WHEREAS**, elimination of the 150-yard safety zone for hunting with archery equipment or trapping could eliminate an unnecessary barrier to the use of archers and/or trappers managing urban and suburban wildlife conflicts. NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs works with the Legislature, Natural Resources Commission and/or any other necessary decision-making bodies to limit the application of the hunting safety zone to hunting with firearms, and to reduce and/or eliminate the safety zone for hunting with archery equipment.