

2019

Proposed Policy Resolutions

Proposed Resolution #01

Submitted by: Mark Hergenreder, Chelsea Rod and Gun Club
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **YOUTH CLAY TARGET RESOLUTION**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan High School Clay Target League has the opportunity for all high schools to
- 2 participate in a club sport; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, Clay target shooting is a varsity collegiate sport in over 300 colleges nationwide; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, clay target shooting is an Olympic sport; and
- 5 **WHEREAS**, clay target shooting is the safest high school sport as there are no known accidents; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, boys and girls can compete on the same team and embrace title IX; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, the sport permits participation of students with physical handicaps; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, school districts statewide are embracing the opportunity for students to participate in
- 9 extracurricular activities and enhance the climate and culture within their buildings; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, clay target shooting is the fastest growing sport in the United States; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, the state of Minnesota has embraced clay target shooting and had 13,653 students
- 12 participating on 328 recognized teams, since its origination in 2011, and has more high school
- 13 participants than hockey; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, the Minnesota High School Clay Target League provided business opportunities to
- 15 countless hunting and recreational shooting companies by using over 30 million shot shells and clay birds
- 16 in 2018; and
- 17 **WHEREAS**, the Minnesota DNR has matched spending of over \$4,000.000.00 to local conservation
- 18 groups in the state to improve clay target ranges at local conservation clubs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Michigan had 469 students on 23 teams in 2017 and 975 students on 45 teams in 2018 and
20 has the growth potential to exceed the number of participants in Minnesota; and
21 **WHEREAS**, providing opportunity for young people to engage in an outdoor activity that could lead to
22 participation in outdoor hunting and future license buyers and support the recruitment initiative by every
23 major conservation organization in the country; and
24 **WHEREAS**, a requirement to participate in the Michigan High School Clay Target League requires
25 formalized safety training with firearms; NOW
26 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That MUCC will endorse and promote the participation of students
27 in the Michigan High School Clay Target League; and
28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That MUCC will encourage all high schools in Michigan to commit to
29 permitting a high school club be formed in their district; and
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That MUCC will encourage all affiliates to offer a learn to shoot clay
31 target opportunities for youth in their local communities; and
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That MUCC encourages the MHSAA to recognize the Michigan High
33 School Clay Target League as a recognized club sport; and
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That MUCC encourages the Michigan DNR to recognize the Michigan
35 High School Clay Target league as an educational program that embraces the recruitment, retainment and
36 reactivation of hunting and shooting sports participants

Proposed Resolution #02
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Michael Riepen, Et al., Michigan Deer Track'n Hounds Tracking Club
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **RESOLUTION TO AMEND LAWS CONTROLLING THE USE OF
DOGS TO TRACK WOUNDED BIG GAME ANIMAL**

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 2.1a of the Michigan Wildlife Conservation order governs the use of dogs to track
2 wounded big game animal; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Data collected by Michigan Deer Track'n Hounds Tracking Club indicates substantially
4 improved success rates for the ethical recovery of wounded big game animals for trackers who operate off
5 lead; and

6 **WHEREAS**, GPS technology has vastly improved since the inception of the current controlling
7 regulations; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The moral duty to ethically end the suffering of wounded animals and the safety of trackers,
9 hunters, and dogs participating in tracking will be improved by allowing trackers to dispatch an already
10 wounded, legally hunted big game animal; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Initial research shows no major violations of tracking laws in states currently allowing off
12 lead tracking or tracker dispatch; NOW

13 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support an initiative to
14 amend the Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order to provide added definition to the current regulations
15 governing the use of dogs to track wounded big game animals; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support an initiative to
17 amend the Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order to provide or remove language to permit registered
18 trackers to dispatch a wounded, legally hunted big game animal for the specific goal of recovering or
19 ending the suffering of already wounded, legally hunted big game animals; and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support an initiative to
21 amend the Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order to provide language to permit registered trackers to
22 operate one dog at a time off lead, provided that dog has affixed a GPS tracking collar, and the registered
23 tracker has on their person a tracking unit where they can monitor their dogs position, their position,
24 property boundaries, and has the ability control/recall their dog prior to crossing boundaries where
25 permission has not been obtained for the specific goal of recovering or ending the suffering of already
26 wounded, legally hunted big game animals; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support and work with State
28 Legislature to amend any laws contradictory to the purposes of the above suggested changes regarding the

29 use of dogs to track wounded big game animals to provide exceptions for the specific goal of recovering
30 or ending the suffering of already wounded, legally hunted big game animals

Proposed Resolution #03
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President
MUCC Region: 4
Passed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION APPOINTMENT CRITERIA**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose
2 members are appointed by the Governor, and
3 **WHEREAS**, the Commission has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish, and is
4 authorized to designate game species and authorize the establishment of the first open season for animals
5 through the issuance of orders, and
6 **WHEREAS**, no established criteria exists relative to the qualifications and eligibility of those who are
7 appointed to the NRC, and
8 **WHEREAS**, The Commission is to be composed of 7 members, not more than 4 of whom identify
9 themselves as being affiliated with the same political party. NOW,
10 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
11 Michigan Department of Natural Resources and State of Michigan Legislature to develop qualification
12 and eligibility criteria which seeks to populate the NRC with members who have a demonstrated interest
13 in both game and non-game fisheries and wildlife, natural resource management, a history of personal
14 participation in these activities, and suitable educational and professional background, and
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consideration for appointment be given to geographic distribution
16 and the diversity of relevant recreational participation of its membership, as well as a balance among
17 those who have a declared political affiliation, and

18 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this emphasis on citizen participation should preclude the
19 appointment of former employees of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan
20 Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural
21 Development and members of the Michigan State legislature for a period of ten years subsequent to their
22 most recent date of service or employment.

Proposed Resolution #04

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Proposed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN CWD AREAS**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an invariably fatal disease of a highly infectious nature,
- 2 and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, left unchecked, CWD has been shown to not only decimate deer populations as the
- 4 incidence climbs inexorably higher, but CWD also depress the age structure of the population
- 5 significantly, and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, the possibility of contracting the disease increases with age and the incidence risk level in a
- 7 population increases with the deposition of prion in the environment, and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, controlling CWD is complicated by this persistent environmental contamination with the
- 9 responsible prion being shed from infected deer well before they show signs of infection, and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, the persistence of the prion in the environment results in an increased indirect transmission
- 11 rate as the disease becomes endemic and the presence of infective prions increases with the density of the
- 12 deer population, and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, direct transmission is also facilitated by concentrating the population on the landscape
- 14 (density of susceptible deer) either by baiting or confinement, increases the risk of both direct and indirect
- 15 transmission, and

16 **WHEREAS** in the CWD Management Zone, where current deer densities are high, current NRC/DNR
17 regulations remove the antler restriction on the combo license in this first year to lessen the density of the
18 deer population, and
19 **WHEREAS**, bringing down the density of the deer population in the CWD Management Zone is served
20 by the revision of the combo license requirements to allow the harvest of more deer, and
21 **WHEREAS**, there is a consensus that management of transmission and contamination require the harvest
22 of deer regardless of age or antler size to decrease the population density, and
23 **WHEREAS**, most all wildlife management strategies take several years to produce results that can be
24 statistically measured and their efficacy in reaching goals confirmed, and
25 **WHEREAS**, to not continue that strategy for several years could confound the results of any changes
26 (making it look more effective because of the first year's reduction of population density). NOW,
27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, MUCC encourage the continuance of the present strategy in the
28 CWD Management Zone and any additional areas where the CWD threat is identified with surveillance,
29 until sufficient data have been generated as to its effectiveness, and
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MUCC should stress the importance of population control and the role
31 of the hunter/conservationist in this effort and encourage the issuance of additional doe permits and
32 extended antlerless seasons, where advisable, to decrease the density of susceptible deer, and
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MUCC remain involved in the design of any field studies in
34 consultation with the biologists of the DNR and other wildlife disease authorities.

Proposed Resolution #05

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan QDMA State Chapter President
MUCC Region: 5
Proposed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH INTO CWD MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES**

1 **WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an invariably fatal disease of a highly infectious nature,
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, left unchecked, CWD has been shown to not only decimate deer populations as the
4 incidence climbs inexorably higher, but CWD also depress the age structure of the population
5 significantly, and

6 **WHEREAS**, the possibility of contracting the disease increases with age in both sexes and the incidence
7 risk level in a population increases with the deposition of prion in the environment, and

8 **WHEREAS**, controlling CWD is complicated by this persistent environmental contamination with the
9 responsible prion being shed from infected deer well before they show signs of infection, and

10 **WHEREAS**, the persistence of the prion in the environment results in an increased indirect transmission
11 rate as the disease becomes endemic and the presence of infective prions increases with the density of the
12 deer population, and

13 **WHEREAS**, direct transmission is also facilitated by concentrating the population on the landscape
14 (density of susceptible deer) either by baiting or confinement, increases the risk of both direct and indirect
15 transmission, and

16 **WHEREAS** in the CWD Management Zone, where current deer densities are high, there are far more
17 mature does than mature bucks, the harvest is heavily biased towards bucks rather than does, habitat
18 damage to wood lots is extensive, and a lack of winter thermal cover and food results in large
19 concentrations of deer, and the NRC/DNR has already passed a resolution to conduct scientific research
20 to determine the best regulatory and management approaches to combatting CWD by reducing deer
21 densities, reducing the age of the doe cohort, and better balancing deer harvest, and

22 **WHEREAS**, Yearling doe and buck dispersal in both spring and fall is a factor in the spread of CWD
23 into new areas, and the timing, rates and distances of dispersal are made worse by high densities, lack of
24 spring fawning habitat, and a scarcity of mature bucks, and

25 **WHEREAS**, in the current CWD area the deer harvest is not balanced and is heavily weighted towards
26 young bucks, resulting in a herd that has far more does than bucks, does that are much older on average
27 than the bucks, and increases in deer densities, and

28 **WHEREAS** effective disease management should focus on using current knowledge of deer behavior to
29 reduce disease risk and ensure the harvest of the older deer that are most likely to be infected, that are
30 spreading prions in the environment, and spreading the disease through social contact.

31 **WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to determine the best deer and disease management strategies to
32 fight CWD and this research may take several years to produce results that can be statistically measured
33 and their efficacy in reaching goals confirmed, and

34 **WHEREAS**, in the scientific method the relative effectiveness of management approaches cannot be
35 determined without the ability to compare competitive approaches and with a control group. and

36 **WHEREAS**, there are 16 counties in the current CWD area, with additional CWD detections in new
37 areas likely to result in an even larger CWD management area, creating an opportunity to perform
38 research into multiple competitive CWD management approaches and,

39 **WHEREAS** no state agency has tried a combination of regulatory changes to focus harvest on the deer
40 most likely to be infected, with clear scientifically based doe harvest and testing goals set at a DMU level,
41 with the goals explained to hunters prior to each season and progress towards those goals communicated
42 throughout the deer seasons, and with habitat programs designed to reduce concentrations of deer and
43 dispersal NOW,

44 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, MUCC encourage and support the efforts of the NRC and DNR to
45 perform research into determining the best CWD management approaches for Michigan's CWD
46 Management Zones, and any additional areas where the CWD threat is identified with surveillance, until
47 sufficient data have been generated as to its effectiveness, and

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MUCC should stress the importance of population control and the role
49 of the hunter/conservationist in this effort and encourage the issuance of additional doe permits and the
50 establishment of doe harvest goals, where advisable, to decrease the density of susceptible deer, and

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MUCC remain involved in the design of any field studies in
52 consultation with the biologists of the DNR and other wildlife disease authorities.

Proposed Resolution #06
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MUCC Fisheries Committee
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **COMMERCIAL FISHING STATUTE MODERNIZATION**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, The statute for commercial fishing oversight and corresponding Department of Natural
- 2 Resources regulations are outdated and in need of revision; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, Michigan is approaching the 2020 Great Lakes tribal consent decree, and modernizing the
- 4 state-licensed commercial fishing regulations would aid in upcoming negotiations; and
- 5 **WHEREAS**, There is a growing interest of commercial anglers to expand operations and harvest game
- 6 species, in part due to the decline in whitefish populations, which have historically been the primary
- 7 commercial fishery; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, the current commercial fishing license fees paid by commercial anglers do not pay for the
- 9 cost of oversight, regulation or enforcement of their operations; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, the sale of hunting and fishing license fund the majority of the management of the fisheries
- 11 and enforcement of regulations for both sportfishing and commercial use; NOW
- 12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs works with the Michigan
- 13 Legislature to enact legislation that will update commercial fisheries license fees to be commensurate
- 14 with the oversight that is required of the commercial fisheries; and
- 15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this updated statute should make improvements in the program to
- 16 be protective of the fisheries and sportfishing, including:
 - 17 ● Protection of game species (except whitefish) from commercial harvest;
 - 18 ● Governs how often commercial entities check their nets and regulates allowable gear in a manner
 - 19 that also takes into account the time of the year and specificity of the net;
 - 20 ● Creates or increases penalties for the disturbance of commercial fishing nets as well as the illegal
 - 21 operations of commercial anglers; and

Proposed Resolution #07

Submitted by: Thomas L. Heriter, MUCC Immediate Past President, Saginaw Field and Stream Club
MUCC Region: 6
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **TRIBAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan's Native Tribal leadership granted the right to peaceful settlement to Europeans
2 and non-natives in exchange for the continued right to harvest fish and game; and
3 **WHEREAS**, the federally-recognized Treaty agreement which resulted from these understandings have
4 required periodic renewal; and
5 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has historically represented the interests of
6 the citizens of Michigan in the negotiations associated with these Treaty agreements as it relates to the
7 taking of fish and game; and
8 **WHEREAS**, the effective representation of these respective interests in past Treaty negotiations have
9 occasionally caused these interests to be in conflict; NOW,
10 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC continue to promote and protect hunting, fishing and
11 trapping opportunities in the State of Michigan while also seeking to improve relations with Michigan's
12 Native American Tribal members and leaders.

Proposed Resolution #08

Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Craig Larson, Dowagiac Conservation Club
MUCC Region: 7
Proposed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT TO TRAVEL TO DEER HUNTING SITE

1 **WHEREAS**, Under current Michigan regulations (page 17 of the 2018 Michigan Hunting Digest), an
2 artificial light may be used from November 1-30 on property you own or property owned by a member of
3 your immediate family if you do not have in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm, or other
4 device capable of shooting a projectile; and

5 **WHEREAS**, It is a violation of federal law to shine at any time on any national wildlife refuge; and

6 **WHEREAS, Deer hunters may use an artificial light one hour before and one hour after shooting**
7 **hours while carrying an unloaded firearm or bow and arrow when traveling on foot to or from**
8 **their hunting location;**

9 **WHEREAS**, many hunters, particularly public land hunters, must travel to their hunting location much
10 earlier than one hour before shooting hours in order to secure their spot and also to minimize wildlife
11 disturbance and would benefit from being able to use an artificial light. NOW,

12 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with the Natural Resources Commission or the
13 Michigan Legislature as necessary to change the regulation to allow deer hunters to use an artificial light
14 two hours before and two hours after shooting hours while carrying an unloaded firearm or bow and
15 arrow when traveling on foot to or from their hunting location.

Proposed Resolution #09

Submitted by: Ted LePresto, Hillsdale County Conservation Club
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **WATER WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MICHINDOH AQUIFER**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Michindoh Aquifer spans 9 counties in the states of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio; and
2 **WHEREAS**, the waters of the Great Lakes are held in commonality among all the states abed provinces
3 of the Great Lakes Water Compact; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Michindoh Aquifer is part of the waters of the Great Lakes; and

5 **WHEREAS**, all members of the Great Lakes Water Compact (which includes Michigan, Indiana, and
6 Ohio) have agreed that all their respective states should be at the table to discuss issues relating to the
7 waters of the Great Lakes; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Great Lake states (which include Michigan, Indiana and Ohio) have joined the Great
9 Lakes Water Compact and agreed to follow the rules and processes for ensuring the future integrity of the
10 water of the Great Lakes; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there must be unanimity of states and provinces in the Great Lakes Water Compact in
12 allowing any large scale use or diversion of the waters of the Great Lakes; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Artesian of Ohio (AOP) has presented a proposal to sell water from the Michindoh Aquifer
14 to the Toledo Ohio area at and rate of at least 10 million gallons per day (with quoted amount up to 28
15 million gallons per day); Now,

16 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Clubs) work with the
17 Great Lakes Water Compact and the states of Michigan, Indiana, ad Ohio (who are members of the Great
18 Lakes Water Compact) to ensure that the rules and processes of the Great Lakes Water Compact be
19 employed in this large scale use or diversion of water of the Great Lakes; and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with the Environmental Protection Agencies of the
21 States and Provinces of the Great Lakes Water Compact and with the Federal Environmental Protection
22 Agency to ensure that the waters of the Great Lakes are protected as dictated by the rules and processes of
23 the Great Lakes Water Compact.

Proposed Resolution #10
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Mike Avery, Individual Member
MUCC Region: 6
Passed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: EXPAND NUMBER OF RODS FOR TROLLING ANGLERS

1 **WHEREAS**, state law (324.48703) restricts anglers to no more than three single rods and lines per
2 person, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the authority to decrease this to
3 two if needed; and

4 **WHEREAS**, many fisherman who troll the Great Lakes and associated waterways would like to have the
5 opportunity to put more lines in the water to maximize fishing opportunities; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there have been concerns in the past to expanding the number of lines for anglers fishing
7 from the frozen ice, shore or fishing piers as crowding can become an issue; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the regulation of size, daily bag and possession limits set by the Natural Resources
9 Commission and also governed by the Great Lakes and Inland Consent Decree would be maintained, even
10 with a higher rod and line limit; NOW,

11 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan
12 Legislature and Michigan Department of Natural Resources to enact legislation to allow the DNR to
13 expand the number of lines for trolling anglers.

Proposed Resolution #11

Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller, MUCC Wildlife Chair
MUCC Region: 9
Proposed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: EXPANDED HUNTING OPPORTUNITY WHILE MANAGING FOR A BALANCED DEER HERD

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Our current deer hunting regulations offer either a single buck tag or a combo tag which
- 2 allows for two bucks.
- 3 **WHEREAS**, Arguably our deer herd is out of balance with the buck-doe ratio being very heavy with
- 4 does
- 5 **WHEREAS**, There is and has been for some time a collaborative effort to revert to the pre-1986 one
- 6 buck license. (Eon Green on line petition 2016 which gathered over 10,000 signatures in support)
- 7 **WHEREAS**, There is a growing trend for Michigan Hunters to travel out-of- state in search of their deer
- 8 hunting opportunities which equates to much lost revenue to the State of Michigan.

9 **WHEREAS**, The current "combo" license allows the take of two bucks with exceptions allowed while
10 utilizing archery equipment to allow 1 buck 1 doe or even 2 does with 100% archery equipment.

11 **WHEREAS**, Michigan comes from a long culture of not shooting does which shows in our current deer
12 herd with the large imbalance in most areas.

13 **WHEREAS**, The current system requires extra effort from any sportsmen to acquire the legal means
14 (tags) to harvest a doe with a gun.

15 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has been making efforts with heavy support of sportsmen to increase the age
16 structure and quality of our deer herd in many Deer Management Units (DMUs) throughout this state.

17 **WHEREAS**, This resolution as detailed below does not "take away" opportunity but rather "adds"
18 opportunity with a high chance of helping to strengthen our herd while being able to harvest venison.

19 **NOW,**

20 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
21 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) to:

22 1) Change the current definition of combo tag to read valid for the take of one buck and one doe
23 with any legal method;

24 2) Only allow a single buck tag option in areas that require extra herd protection and would
25 otherwise not allow the take of a doe with any means (such as archery);

26 3) Make available in all other areas either the new combo (both sex) or single buck tag.

27 4) Maintain hunter supported additional requirements in DMUs that have supported such. (Such as
28 APRs)

29 5) In areas of special management needs such as disease areas or high-density areas additional tags
30 can be made available per DNR recommendations or mandates

Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: David van Eepik, Individual Member
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting

Title: SPORT SHOOTING RANGES PROTECTION MODERNIZATION ACT

1 **WHEREAS**, Private property, agricultural areas and other public property such as the Department of
2 Natural Resources shooting ranges and state game areas are limited in access, availability, safety features
3 and location throughout the state for hunting, competitive and recreational shooting, and other firearm
4 activities; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Conservation clubs, sportsmen's clubs, rod and gun clubs, and other private firearms
6 ranges (sport shooting ranges) have had substantial increases in memberships and usage by member and
7 non-member events, and private and public entities (example: law enforcement, DNR hunter safety
8 education, Whitetails Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, 4 H Shooting Sports, etc). This is due to increased
9 interest in hunting, competitive and recreational shooting; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Local, county and state law enforcement agencies use sport shooting ranges for their
11 firearms training due to updated and current safety features. These clubs and range locations are very cost
12 effective or free to train and qualify officers with their firearms; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Existing sport shooting ranges need to expand their real property, update facilities,
14 buildings and ranges without the fear of excessive and overburdening regulations, ordinances, zoning
15 changes, and taxes; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Sport shooting ranges are often being targeted by individuals, local governing boards and
17 other groups to stop activities or limit access to the facilities. These individuals, local governing boards
18 and other groups create exorbitant legal and other financial costs to the clubs/ranges to defend against
19 these nuisance complaints; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Existing and new sport shooting ranges are increasingly being pressured by local
21 governments, township officials, zoning boards, tax assessors, planning commissions: to wit: increasing
22 regulations by planning commissions, zoning board changes to current/existing zoning classifications,
23 township, city, village and other local officials implementing new ordinances and/or now enforcing
24 previously unenforced local ordinances, excessive regulations, and changing tax formulas and taxes.

25 NOW,

26 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) shall work
27 with the state legislature to pass a law limiting or eliminating new and existing regulatory pressure aimed
28 at sport shooting ranges via local ordinances, prohibitive zoning changes and regulations, planning
29 commission issues, regulations and changing tax formulas and taxes on new or expanding sport shooting
30 ranges: Provided the sport shooting ranges meet or exceed nationally recognized range standards at the
31 time of development on property they currently lease, own or purchase in the future. (Examples are the
32 National Rifle Association Range Standards, or National Shooting Sports Foundation range parameters.)
33 New buildings will meet existing building codes. Remodeled buildings shall meet building codes in
34 existence when the original structure or structures were built; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Legislature update Michigan Law in regards to firearms
36 ranges, and allow new and existing sport shooting ranges to work under the prior firearms range laws and
37 noise ordinances AND enact new laws to protect existing ranges from the nuisance complaints, additional
38 regulatory pressure, excessive local ordinances, prohibitive zoning changes and regulations, planning
39 commission issues, regulations and taxes on new or expanding sport shooting ranges, and

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Legislature should also enact and/or create civil penalties for
41 private citizen nuisance complaints made to any governmental entity toward a sport shooting range in
42 which those complaints or issues are addressed by Michigan Law, or are based in Common Law.

Proposed Resolution #13

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: PFAS AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANT

- 1 **WHEREAS**, PFAS have been recognized as an environmental contaminant harmful to all life – human
- 2 and wild; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, the nature of this contaminant, how it enters and leaves the ecosystem, and at what levels
- 4 are indicative of risk, are unknown factors; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the potential to harm fisheries and other terrestrial wildlife as well as the issuance of
6 consumption advisory's has alerted the public to its danger; and
7 **WHEREAS**, it has been found in drinking water supplies in some locations of the state; NOW,
8 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC support PFAS education for the public and our
9 affiliates as well as supporting the state agencies to do the necessary research to better address the issue;
10 and
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Be it further resolved that MUCC work with other organizations for
12 which this is an issue of concern to better facilitate the objective decision making needed to find solutions
13 to PFAS contamination

Proposed Resolution #14
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller, MUCC Wildlife Chair
MUCC Region: 9
Proposed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **MANDATORY DEER REGISTRATION**

1 **WHEREAS**, Current methods utilized to determine our deer herd size, take, etc are largely based on
2 estimates and voluntary contributions from the sportsperson.
3 **WHEREAS**, To do our best in managing the deer herd we need to gather accurate information.
4 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is a state to which appears to have a good, mandatory deer registration system in
5 place that could be looked to for ideas.
6 **WHEREAS**, The hunting community commonly down plays the Department of Natural Resources
7 (DNR) forecasts and field reports of harvest, herd etc as there is little buy in from the general sportsmen
8 on the methods currently in place in making such predictions or determinations. NOW,
9 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the DNR and
10 the Natural Resource Commission to enact a mandatory deer check system that is supported with
11 penalties for those that ignore this requirement. This system should entertain these or similar steps:

- Simple call in system with predetermined basic questions such as your ID, animal description, method of take, area of take and any other simple question that may be useful such as "Do you hunt out of State and why?"
 - On line system that will complement the call-in system as another means of reporting.
 - Historic drive-in check stations where available that again will maintain the check in requirement.
 - The deer will need to be registered within 24 hours of harvest OR 24 hours of returning home from camp (to accommodate remote camps where access to phone, internet etc is not reasonable)
 - Impose penalties for those that do not register

Proposed Resolution #15
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **STATE PARKS ENDOWMENT FUND (SPEF) OVERSIGHT**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has proven to be an effective
- 2 mechanism for allotting royalty extraction funds through a governing citizens Michigan Natural
- 3 Resources Trust Fund Board (MNRTF Board); and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, these projects are judged against criteria created to best benefit the public lands and the
- 5 natural resources from which wealth is extracted, for purposes of acquisition, improvement, and
- 6 development of recreation on land held in public trust; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, the premise of the royalty payment is compensation for the extraction of resources from
- 8 public lands by benefiting the expansion and conservation of state holdings, and constitute assets placed
- 9 in a public trust; and
- 10 **WHEREAS** the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund (SPEF) has no such governance by a citizen
- 11 board as constituted in the MNRTF; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the use of public funds above and beyond the \$500 million cap for the MNRTF constitute
13 the funding of the SPEF, and by extension should be used for the same long-term priorities of asset
14 acquisition and capital improvements; NOW,
15 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, MUCC will work to develop a similar governing body for the
16 SPEF to make decisions as to the disbursement of the fund for acquisition, improvement, and restoration
17 (capital expenditures) and not for operations (recognizing that any such project will have a certain % of
18 labor cost and staff time needed above and beyond the normal operating costs of the Division – a % to be
19 considered by the suggested board as that which is appropriate to the grant proposal).

Proposed Resolution #16
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Charles Felcyn, Paw Paw Conservation Club
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **ONE BUCK PER HUNTER IN EACH PENINSULA**

1 **WHEREAS**, the combination tag can be eliminated and a one buck rule implemented that may earn more
2 support among the hunting public; and
3 **WHEREAS**, under this proposal, Michigan deer hunters would be able to purchase both a Lower
4 Peninsula (LP) buck tag and an Upper Peninsula (UP) buck tag; and
5 **WHEREAS**, the LP buck tag is only valid in the Lower Peninsula, and the UP buck tag is only valid in
6 the Upper Peninsula; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Michigan deer hunters will still be able to harvest two bucks in Michigan if they choose to,
8 currently only about 4 percent of hunters do; and
9 **WHEREAS**, this would potentially increase the numbers of Lower Peninsula hunters hunting in the
10 Upper Peninsula and vice versa; and
11 **WHEREAS**, hunters who tagged out in the Upper Peninsula may then want to buy a tag for the Lower
12 Peninsula and vice versa; and

13 **WHEREAS**, hunters who hunt both the Lower and Upper Peninsulas can still take a buck in each hunting
14 zone; and

15 **WHEREAS**, hunters in the Lower Peninsula would more likely hunt in the Upper peninsula for the first
16 time and vice versa; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this would encourage Michigan's Lower Peninsula hunters to purchase an additional buck
18 tag for the Upper Peninsula rather than go to a neighboring state to shoot an additional buck; and

19 **WHEREAS**, this new license system should boost the economy of the Upper Peninsula; and

20 **WHEREAS**, does can be managed separately throughout the state where needed; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the doe harvest should increase significantly in both hunting zones where allowed by
22 limiting hunters to one buck per peninsula; and

23 **WHEREAS**, deer hunters will continue to be involved in the management of Michigan's deer herd for
24 quality, not quantity; and

25 **WHEREAS**, hunters would be more likely to harvest a doe instead of harvesting a young buck for meat;
26 and

27 **WHEREAS**, young bucks would have a chance to grow and does would be more likely harvested; and

28 **WHEREAS**, this proposal would not change any antler point restrictions (APR) already in place on the
29 first buck tag, but over time this new license structure could eliminate the need for antler point restrictions
30 in the future as people will be restricting their harvest voluntarily; NOW

31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
32 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission (NRC), and the Michigan
33 Legislature if necessary to simplify and restructure the deer license to include one LP buck tag, and one
34 UP buck tag eliminating the need for the combo deer license; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DNR and the NRC manage Michigan's deer herd for health,
36 buck to doe ratio, and quality and not quantity; and

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DNR and NRC provide sufficient antlerless tags available to
38 meet the needs of managing the deer herd in that Deer Management Unit (DMU).

Proposed Resolution #17
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President
MUCC Region: 4
Passed: December 8, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **UNATTENDED CAMERA USE (TRAIL CAMS) ON STATE-MANAGED LANDS**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has historically sought to ensure that new
- 2 and emerging technologies used in the pursuit of fish and game and outdoor recreation will not adversely
- 3 affect our outdoor heritage, and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, the use of unattended cameras (a.k.a. Trail Cameras) on public lands has increased
- 5 significantly each year as both their cost and size have further been reduced, and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, an increasing number of reports have emerged in recent years that unattended and
- 7 unidentified cameras are being observed in such places as public access sites, beaches, and recreation
- 8 trails and other locations where their use would not appear to be intended as an aid in the monitoring of
- 9 wild game, and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, the cost and size of these cameras is likely to continue to decrease as their technological
- 11 capabilities increase which could potentially result in their further proliferation on public lands to a point
- 12 where the outdoor experience becomes compromised, and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, this rise in number and distribution of unattended cameras increases the potential for
- 14 incidents of inappropriate use which could negatively affect the public image of hunters and other outdoor
- 15 recreationalists, and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, this increasing sense of “being watched” can undermine the quality of the outdoor
- 17 experience on our public lands. NOW,
- 18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
- 19 Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop a policy for the use of unattended cameras (a.k.a.
- 20 Trail Cameras) on State of Michigan-managed lands which seeks to limit their number and duration of
- 21 use, and further require that each camera deployed include the name and contact information of the
- 22 owner/user, and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that unattended cameras used for DNR-sponsored, or DNR-approved
24 research shall be subject to a separate policy regarding their use.

Proposed Resolution #18
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Charles Felcyn, Paw Paw Conservation Club
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **CENTER FIRE CHANGES TO MICHIGAN'S LIMITED FIREARM ZONE**

1 **WHEREAS**, Indiana has been using center fire rifles in the entire state the last few hunting seasons
2 without a major safety problem occurring; and
3 **WHEREAS**, here in Michigan, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) adopted several calibers of
4 rifles using straight-walled cartridges in 2014 for the limited firearm deer zone (formerly the shotgun
5 zone), which was reauthorized in 2017; and
6 **WHEREAS**, most modern muzzleloaders have a 200-yard range which are allowed in the limited firearm
7 deer zone in Michigan as well; and
8 **WHEREAS**, currently, center fire rifles can be used for coyote, fox, woodchuck and other small game in
9 the limited firearm zone; and
10 **WHEREAS**, current regulations in Michigan for the rest of the state should apply to the limited firearm
11 deer zone; NOW,
12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
13 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission to change Michigan's
14 limited firearm deer zone to have the same firearm restrictions and regulations as the rest of Michigan.

Proposed Resolution #19
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Jack Letho, Individual Member
Passed: March 23, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **SPORTSMEN'S CLUB/SHOOTING CLUB FIREARMS OWNERSHIP**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Under Current State of Michigan law firearms, particularly handguns, must be registered to
- 2 an individual and cannot be registered in the name of an organized, incorporated club; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, A club may purchase firearms, but are unable to legally register them under current state
- 4 law; and
- 5 **WHEREAS**, As an individual who has firearms owned by a club, registered in their name may die or
- 6 relocate; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, This situation limits the use of the firearm for club functions, and transportation and
- 8 specifically return to manufacturer for maintenance and repair; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, The current status of the law places undo liability on the individual in whose name the
- 10 firearms are registered; **NOW**
- 11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Federal
- 12 Government, Michigan Legislature and the Governor's office to enact legislation that will legally allow
- 13 organized, incorporated sportsmen's clubs and or shooting clubs to register firearms owned by the club.

Proposed Resolution #20
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Tim Kobasic on behalf of the Hiawathaland Trail Association
MUCC Region: 1
Passed: September 22, 2018 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **RESOLUTION TO ASSURE FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS DERIVED FROM GAS TAX**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, under MCL Section 324.020 (1) the Recreation Improvement Account is established as an account within the Legacy Fund, and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, under Section 324.020 (2) The Recreation Improvement Account shall consist of both of the following: (a) All money in the Recreational Improvement Fund, formerly created in Section 71105, immediately prior to the effective date of the amendatory act that added this section, which money is hereby transferred to the Recreation Improvement Account, and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, under (b) the revenue (is derived) from the following sources: (i) Two percent of the gasoline sold in this state for consumption in internal combustion engines. And (ii) Other revenue provided by law, and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, under MCL Section 324.71101 (e) Recreational Projects are defined to mean, in addition to the activities provided for in this part, the construction, maintenance, and operation of trails and associated facilities that may be used by off-road vehicles, cross country skiers, horseback riders, and hikers, and inland lake cleanup grants as provided by part 309, and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, the Recreation Improvement Account (Fund) distribution matrix currently directs that 80% of said funds is dedicated for use in Waterways Recreational Projects, 14% is dedicated for use in Snowmobiling Recreational Projects and the remaining 6% is dedicated for all other uses (including motorized and non-motorized activities), and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, All-terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) by unit sales and gas tax revenue derived for the Recreational Improvement Account, now exceeds that produced by recreational watercraft (vessels) and snowmobile, and

21 **WHEREAS**, cross country skiers, horseback riders, hikers and bicyclists contribute zero direct revenue
22 towards the Recreational Improvement Account, and

23 **WHEREAS**, with expanded opportunity for recreational motorized riding along county, state forest,
24 federal forest roads and limited access to highway trunk lines for connection, that there is certainty as to
25 an increased need of dedicated funds for remuneration for maintenance and repair of the aforementioned
26 roadways beyond the scope of current funding sources. NOW,

27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support and initiative to
28 change the Michigan Recreational Improvement Account matrix of fund distribution to include only those
29 entities that directly contribute to the account via the gas tax, and

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Michigan Legislature resolves to also amend the Michigan
31 Improvement Account matrix of fund distribution to establish as fair and equitable sharing of said funds
32 proportionate to the current economic impact by unit sales, and/or permit (license) unit sales, and/or
33 impact on tourism for the State of Michigan, and

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a percentage of all proportionate designated funds shall be put
35 aside for all related remuneration needs and eligible for application and use by those county, state and
36 federal and highway management agencies affect.