MUCC Proposed Resolutions

All Proposed Resolutions Passed as of December 2019
Interim Resolution #A  
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Region 8 Executive Board
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: September 11, 2019 Executive Board Meeting, and September 28, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Support FOIA when it doesn’t interfere with Science or Fair Chase

WHEREAS, “Fair Chase,” as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals; and

WHEREAS, it may be possible to use on-going scientific research studies to unethically gain information on wild game. This could hinder the scientific study, and general public support for fair chase hunting; and

WHEREAS, MUCC was the driving force behind the successful voter passage of Proposal G: a referendum on Public Act 377 of 1996, which amended the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to grant the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game in this state. The amendment also requires the NRC, to the greatest extent practicable, to use principles of sound scientific management in making decisions regarding the taking of game; and

WHEREAS, because all State of Michigan Commissions such as the NRC are mandated by law to adhere to the Open Meetings Act, the information from these meetings must be available for review, and

WHEREAS, it is important and necessary for our state departments to be as transparent and open as possible and must respond to citizen requests for information through use of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, anyone, at any time should have the freedom to file FOIA request in an equitable and speedy manner.

WHEREAS, allowing anyone to hinder a scientific study involving the state’s flora or fauna conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), directly impacts the NRC’s ability to use sound science when making natural resource decisions; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure continued access to state and federal information, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure the end user will not use any information to jeopardize the definition of fair chase, or hinder any scientific study involving flora or fauna.

Proposed Resolution #D

Submitted by: George Lindquist, MUCC President
MUCC Region: 1
Passed: September 28, 2019 Conservation Policy Board
Title: Encourage the use of non-lead alternatives

WHEREAS, Increasingly, there are more and more alternatives to lead in hunting ammunition, and in fishing sinkers, jig heads, etc. In some cases, these alternatives perform better than lead, such as the newer copper bullets and tungsten jigs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That MUCC educate the sporting public of the potential impacts of using lead, and the alternatives, for hunting ammunition, as well as fishing gear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC encourage the use of non-lead whenever these options are available, and practical; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution does not apply to projectiles used at sport shooting ranges.
WHEREAS, the gray wolf is a candidate for removal from the Federal Endangered Species List by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) endorses the removal of gray wolves from the Federal Endangered Species List in the Great Lakes Region; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the Campfire Program in Wildlife Conservation in the Upper Peninsula suggests that gray wolves are a primary predator of white-tailed deer year-round and especially during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Wolf Management Plan states that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources should attempt to decrease human-wolf conflict by maintaining a healthy deer herd in the Upper Peninsula to serve as a primary winter food source for wolves; and

WHEREAS, the MDNR Wolf Management Plan states that studies have examined wolf predation success rates and recent estimates range from 30 to 50 deer eaten by each wolf each year; and

WHEREAS, the MDNR Wolf Management Plan states that wolf populations appear to remain stable or increase in both Canada and Alaska even when hunters and trappers annually harvested 28% of the population; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 Michigan Wolf Recovery and Management Plan defined a viable population as the maintenance of 200 individuals for five (5) consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, the Gray Wolf in Michigan has surpassed State and Federal population recovery goals for more than 19 years and no longer warrant a threatened or endangered listing status in Michigan; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, MUCC will work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to revisit the Wolf Management Plan to expand the gray wolf harvest area to the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC will advocate for both hunting and trapping to be legal methods of take for wolf harvest in Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC will advocate for the Michigan Wolf Management Plan to include a goal of maintaining a population of 300-400 Gray Wolves (up to twice the population required to meet the delisting requirements in Michigan) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

**Proposed Resolution #F**

**Requires 2/3rd Majority**

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President

MUCC Region: 8

Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting

Title: Boat Wash Law and the Prevention of Spreading Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

WHEREAS, Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are usually spread by the actions of people, and in aquatic environments, this is the use of watercraft; and

WHEREAS, new Michigan law (Part 41325 of NREPA (PA 451 of 1994)) prohibits the launching of any craft or equipment (trailer, etc) that is contaminated with AIS, a violation punishable by a fine, and furthermore, DNR Fisheries order #245 prohibits the transport of water overland in ballast tanks, bilges and live wells to prevent fish disease dissemination; and

WHEREAS, no adherence to this statute is not only a violation, it is a behavior that threatens the biodiversity of the aquatic habitats within which we all recreate; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC pursue an active educational campaign to help increase awareness of this law and adherence to its intent, impressing the boating public with the importance of this responsibility; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC encourage the establishment of boat wash facilities/capabilities at state public launches particularly where the presence of AIS is established and the risk of spread is most likely.
WHEREAS, the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is increasing in intensity and distribution; and

WHEREAS, the treatment of these species often requires a permit from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and

WHEREAS, EGLE is often restrained in the issuance of these permits by Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) considerations; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of treatment plans are often hindered by delay and/or prohibition based on the uncertain presence of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, many of these programs are funded by taxpayer dollars through the establishment of Special Assessment Districts and the public expects treatments to expeditiously occur; and

WHEREAS, recent regulatory provisions have been made for the expedited permit issuance of volunteer wetland improvement projects through a joint review by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and EGLE representatives in order to prevent unnecessary delay and thereby providing biologists input to the process; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC promote more DNR biologist input into the permit approval process to assess the risk/benefit of treatment regimens and the impact on other native populations of flora and fauna while considering the potential benefit of reducing the threat of AIS.
WHEREAS, The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has been in place since 1976. It provides grants to local governments and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land or rights in land for public recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or its scenic beauty. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, The sources of funds for the MNRTF are annual revenues from the development of State-owned mineral resources, largely oil and gas. The program is administered by the MNRTF Board of Trustees and the Grants Management office of the DNR; and

WHEREAS, Leasing of the state-owned oil and gas rights for exploration and development offered in a public auction generates revenue in three ways:

   • Lessees pay a “bonus” to acquire the lease rights;
   • Lessees pay rent on acreage leased; and
   • Lessees pay royalties.

Royalty payments are a percentage of the gross value of the oil or gas produced and are determined at the time the product is sold; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with section 35 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, the MNRTF is established in the state treasury. The trust fund shall consist of all bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties collected or reserved by the state under provisions of leases for the extraction of nonrenewable resources from most state owned lands; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's natural gas production has declined over the past two decades, and in 2017 Michigan's gross withdrawals of natural gas were less than one-third of the state's 1997 peak; and
WHEREAS, the MNRTF has reached its $500 million cap, with new revenue being directed to the State Park Endowment Fund; and

WHEREAS, the SPEF has a cap of $800 million and is currently at roughly $255 million in 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan State Parks System is in need of substantial reinvestment to continue to respond to customers’ needs and also reflect current recreational trends appropriate to a state system. Maintenance and improvement were identified as priority needs by the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, which undertook a comprehensive review of the state park system in Michigan. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agrees with this assessment; and

WHEREAS, The amount of annual funding available to support basic infrastructure needs continues to be insufficient to adequately address the backlog of maintenance, repair, and improvement projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs use the strength of its 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the state to support an addition to the MNRTF to include the extraction of renewable resources, or creation of renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC work with our state legislature to see that Bonuses for lease rights, rent on acreage, and percentage of gross values of solar and wind energy creation is deposited into the MNRTF, and ultimately the SPEF; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC work with the legislature to see that these Bonuses for lease rights, rent on acreage, and percentage of gross values will not negatively impact the establishment of renewable energy sources.

https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_sum_lsum_dcu_SMI_a.htm
Proposed Resolution #1

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Tomahawk Archers
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Ban Balloon Release

WHEREAS, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) mission is “Uniting citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage;” and

WHEREAS, MUCC Organizational Values are:

- Foster a conservation stewardship ethic in the public
- Protect the rights of the public to hunt, fish, trap and recreate outdoors
- Encourage the public to connect to our resources through active recreation
- Advocate for sustainable conservation practices and resource stewardship through sound scientific management; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance for the Great Lakes' annual "Adopt-a-Beach" shoreline cleanup program has found between 4,400 and 7,200 balloons or pieces of balloon debris on Great Lakes beaches each of the last three years; and

WHEREAS, a scientific study published in March out of the University of Tasmania that found balloons are the highest-risk plastic debris item for seabirds — 32 times more likely to kill them than ingesting hard plastics; and

WHEREAS, balloons can be filled with gas lighter than air, or ride thermals and travel up to a thousand miles when released; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes cover an area of 94,250 square miles, allowing more balloon debris to come back to the surface due the lack of thermals over bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, balloons pose a threat to our waterfowl, our non-game birds, and ruin the aesthetics of our natural resources that everyone enjoys; and

WHEREAS, Balloon releases are simply sanctioned littering events; and
WHEREAS, according to NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 451 of 1994 section 324.8905a littering is a state civil infraction with appropriate fines

(1) A person who violates this part, if the amount of the litter is less than 1 cubic foot in volume, is responsible for a state civil infraction and is subject to a civil fine of not more than $800.00.

(2) A person who violates this part, if the amount of the litter is 1 cubic foot or more but less than 3 cubic feet in volume, is responsible for a state civil infraction and is subject to a civil fine of not more than $1,500.00; and

WHEREAS, many organizations (National Wildlife Federation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Balloons Blow, etc) are pushing the message that balloon releases can cause harm, but there is little to no enforcement of littering laws or legal restrictions to back this message; and

WHEREAS, California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia currently have legal restrictions.

While Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Maine have legislation introduced to restrict releases; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs use the strength of its 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the state to oppose commercial, or public balloon releases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC work with our national affiliate National Wildlife Federation, or other like-minded organizations, to also encourage education and littering enforcement in other states that have the potential to impact our natural resources here in Michigan.
WHEREAS, there is a need to change the deer management philosophy in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, which can be accomplished by educating hunters as to the importance of harvesting does while balancing the buck to doe ratio; and

WHEREAS, the hunting public should have a better understanding of deer health and reducing disease transmission in their hunting areas; and

WHEREAS, MUCC should work with biologists to use sound science in decision making; and

WHEREAS, under this proposal the combination license would include an antlerless license to be used for Deer Management Units (DMUs) allowing antlerless harvest; and

WHEREAS, hunters will still have the opportunity to harvest two bucks in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, every hunter will have the tools available to manage their own hunting area; and

WHEREAS, hunters will become a more significant part of the management of Michigan’s deer herd; and

WHEREAS, Michigan will have a better buck to doe ratio; and

WHEREAS, this philosophy help will reduce the disease pressure resulting in a healthier deer population; and

WHEREAS, out of state license fees can then be increased to the national average; and

WHEREAS, a well-balanced deer herd is more important now than ever in Michigan’s history to help stop the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis and improve deer herd social structure; and

WHEREAS, the current license structure and philosophy in the Upper Peninsula for herd management will not be affected or changed; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission (NRC), and the Michigan
Legislature if necessary, to manage Michigan’s deer herd for health, buck to doe ratio, and quality not quantity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC support changes that would implement a three-year trial of a regulation that would:

- include a doe tag with the combination license (3 tags), which will include 2 bucks and 1 doe in DMUs where antlerless harvest is valid; and

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

Proposed Resolution # P
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan Quality Deer Management Association
MUCC region: 9
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Restoring Antler point restrictions on 2nd Tag in Disease Areas

WHEREAS, mature bucks are more likely to be infected with the deer diseases bovine tuberculosis (bTB) and chronic wasting disease (CWD) than yearling bucks, and

WHEREAS, regionally appropriate antler point restrictions protect the majority of yearling bucks while allowing the harvest of bucks 2.5 and older, and

WHEREAS, DNR biologists recommended restoring APR’s on the restricted tag in the disease areas; and

WHEREAS, hunters will still have the opportunity to harvest two bucks in Michigan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission (NRC), to restore the antler point restriction on the second tag in the combo license.