

2020 MUCC Proposed Resolutions



**Proposed Resolutions Passed as of March
2020**

Interim Resolution #1
Requires 2/3 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 Does Not Interfere with Science or Fair Chase**

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 **WHEREAS**, allowing anyone to hinder a scientific study involving the state’s flora or fauna conducted
21 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), directly impacts the NRC’s ability to use
22 sound science when making natural resource decisions; and

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure
24 continued access to state and federal information, and
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure the end user will
26 not use any information to jeopardize the definition of fair chase, or hinder any scientific study involving
27 flora or fauna.

Proposed Resolution #2
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Zach Snyder, Individual Member
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Allow Hunters One Leftover Spring Turkey Tag**

1 **WHEREAS**, the current regulations allow for hunters to only purchase one spring turkey tag; and,
2 **WHEREAS**, during the 2019 spring season, there were 19,618 unpurchased turkey tags; and,
3 **WHEREAS**, the amount of leftover tags from the 2019 spring turkey season potentially left \$294,270 on
4 the table that could have been otherwise utilized for conservation; and,
5 **WHEREAS**, currently the regulations already allow for unsuccessful applicants, and the general public to
6 purchase one leftover spring turkey tag; and,
7 **WHEREAS**, allowing the purchase of one additional tag would further increase opportunity afield and
8 generate more conservation dollars; and,
9 **WHEREAS**, allowing hunters to purchase leftover spring turkey tags for areas outside of their original
10 hunt zone for a separate hunt period would encourage travel to other hunting zones, generating tourist
11 revenue in areas one would not typically frequent; and,
12 **WHEREAS**, license quotas are set by biologists based upon population survey results for a maximum
13 potential harvest number; **NOW**,
14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan
15 Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission to allow spring turkey
16 hunters the opportunity to purchase one leftover turkey tag in addition to their already purchased tag when
17 leftover tags become made available to the general public, for a hunt period and hunt unit different from
18 their originally purchased tag.

Proposed Resolution #3
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller, Bowfishing Association of Michigan
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Better Define or Discontinue the Public Boat Launch "Restricted Hours of Use"**

1 **WHEREAS**, water in the state of Michigan is like air, owned by no one, yet owned by all; and,
2 **WHEREAS**, navigable waterways are legally open to the public for fishing and navigation reasons; and,
3 **WHEREAS**, lakes are considered navigable if they have a navigable inlet and outlet; and,
4 **WHEREAS**, navigable is historically defined by "can you float a log down it;" and,
5 **WHEREAS**, the state of Michigan does not allow a riparian landowner the ability to limit the right of the
6 public to fish on navigable waterways; and,
7 **WHEREAS**, many public ramps are being posted with closed hours of usage such as "Closed 11 PM to 4
8 AM;" and,
9 **WHEREAS**, in working with multiple members of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources the
10 reasons for these closures are of a wide variety; and,
11 **WHEREAS**, enforcement is not uniform and is largely left up to the discretion of each
12 jurisdiction/officer's interpretation; and,
13 **WHEREAS**, these restrictions put undue burden on specific user groups such as 2nd-3rd shifters and
14 those who enjoy nighttime fishing activities; NOW,
15 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will work with
16 relevant state government bodies to create policy such that any hours of use restrictions for public boat
17 ramps specifically exclude the launching or retrieving of a vessel into the waterway; and,
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work to ensure that hours of closed use does not refer
19 to the parking of one's unoccupied vehicle/trailer necessary for the transport of the watercraft to and from
20 the waterway; and,
21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for policy so that any access restrictions
22 applied to Michigan waterways will apply equally to both public and private access. This shall apply to

23 both navigable as well as non-navigable waterways within the state of Michigan that have a public access
24 point.

Proposed Resolution #4
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Charles Felcyn
MUCC region: 7
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board, as amended by MUCC Wildlife
Committee
Title: **Change the Deer Management Philosophy in the Lower Peninsula**

1 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to change the deer management philosophy in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan,
2 which can be accomplished by educating hunters as to the importance of harvesting does while balancing the buck
3 to doe ratio; and
4 **WHEREAS**, the hunting public should have a better understanding of deer health and reducing disease
5 transmission in their hunting areas; and
6 **WHEREAS**, MUCC should work with biologists to use sound science in decision making; and
7 **WHEREAS**, under this proposal the combination license would include an antlerless license to be used for Deer
8 Management Units (DMUs) allowing antlerless harvest; and
9 **WHEREAS**, hunters will still have the opportunity to harvest two bucks in Michigan; and
10 **WHEREAS**, every hunter will have the tools available to manage their own hunting area; and
11 **WHEREAS**, hunters will become a more significant part of the management of Michigan's deer herd; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Michigan will have a better buck to doe ratio; and
13 **WHEREAS**, this philosophy help will reduce the disease pressure resulting in a healthier deer population; and
14 **WHEREAS**, out of state license fees can then be increased to the national average; and
15 **WHEREAS**, a well-balanced deer herd is more important now than ever in Michigan's history to help stop the
16 spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis and improve deer herd social structure; and
17 **WHEREAS**, the current license structure and philosophy in the Upper Peninsula for herd management will not be
18 affected or changed; NOW,
19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
20 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission (NRC), and the Michigan

21 Legislature if necessary, to manage Michigan’s deer herd for health, buck to doe ratio, and quality not quantity;
22 and
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC support changes that would implement a three-year trial of a
24 regulation that would:

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

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

Proposed Resolution #5
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Dawn Levey, Region 5 Executive Board member
MUCC Region: 5
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Recess in K-5 Schools**

1 **WHEREAS**, outdoor play is an important part of childhood and is the first step to developing
2 the next generation of conservationists; and

3 **WHEREAS**, many schools are limiting or eliminating recess time for children k-5 deeming
4 it is not instructional time and substituting it for standardized test preparation; and

5 **WHEREAS**, studies indicate that outdoor play is vital to a child’s overall development
6 and learning; and

7 **WHEREAS**, learning includes improved spatial recognition, understanding environmental tendencies like
8 the changing of leaves and watching the changes in flora; improves physical and social development;
9 encourages the use of the imagination; reduces screen time; contributes to cognitive and social/emotional
10 development; increases attention spans; and happiness/stronger immune system; NOW,

11 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan
12 State Legislature and the Michigan Department of Education to educate and encourage the development of
13 standards and curriculum to maintain designated time during the school day for outside play/recess for the
14 wellbeing of Michigan’s greatest natural resource, its children.

Proposed Resolution #6
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle
MUCC region: 5
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board
Title: **Restoring Antler Point Restrictions on 2nd Tag in Disease Areas**

1 **WHEREAS**, mature bucks are more likely to be infected with the deer diseases bovine tuberculosis (bTB) and
2 chronic wasting disease (CWD) than yearling bucks, and
3 **WHEREAS**, regionally appropriate antler point restrictions protect the majority of yearling bucks while allowing
4 the harvest of bucks 2.5 and older, and
5 **WHEREAS**, DNR biologists recommended restoring APR's on the restricted tag in the disease areas; and
6 **WHEREAS**, hunters will still have the opportunity to harvest two bucks in Michigan; and
7 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
8 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission (NRC), to restore the antler point
9 restriction on the second tag in the combo license.

Proposed Resolution #7
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Dean Hall, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **A Resolution to Propose a State Tax Credit for the Donation and Processing of Legally Harvested Deer to Feed the Hungry of Our State**

1 **WHEREAS**, Sportsmen and Sportswomen as well as non-hunters in the state of Michigan have supported
2 the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) organization and its program since its inception in 1991;
3 and,
4 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is one of the founding groups who fostered
5 the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger organization and continues to be involved and represented on the
6 board of directors for the MSAH; and,
7 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the MSAH is providing ground venison to state recognized non-profit food
8 banks, shelters and pantries providing food assistance to the hungry of the state of Michigan through
9 donated deer from hunter and deer management programs and the processing of those deer by MSAH
10 participating processors in the MSAH network; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, the hunters donating their harvested deer to the MSAH program receive no compensation for
12 their generosity; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, the wild game processors working with the MSAH receive only \$1.35 per processed pound
14 of venison they produce for the MSAH program due to budgeted funds available to pay for their processing
15 work through the Sportsmen Against Hunger Fund controlled by the state of Michigan in which voluntary
16 donations are collected at the point of Hunting/Fishing/permit sales to pay for the processing of the deer;
17 and,

18 **WHEREAS**, from 1991 to 2019 an estimated 706,005 pounds of ground venison has been provided to
19 Michigan based non-profit food banks, shelters and pantries to create up to 2,984,020 hot and high in protein
20 meals through the combined effort of the MSAH and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
21 (MDNR); and,

22 **WHEREAS**, to offer an incentive to a hunter as well as a Michigan wild game processing facility working
23 with a state charitable organization like the MSAH engaged in the donation and processing of, legally
24 harvested deer during a hunting season for their generosity would be fair AND increase deer donations to
25 feed the hungry of our state; NOW,

26 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC support legislation to create a state tax credit per each
27 deer legally harvested during a hunting season by a hunter and donated to a charitable organization like
28 the MSAH that is engaged in the distributing wild game processed at a Michigan Department of
29 Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
30 inspected and approved participating wild game processors in our state; and,

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MUCC support legislation to also create a tax credit per each donated
32 and legally harvested deer that is processed into ground venison burger by a processor to feed the state's
33 hungry through working with a charitable organization like the MSAH that is engaged in the distributing
34 wild game processed at an MDARD or USDA inspected wild game processor to feed the hungry of our
35 state through state of Michigan recognized non-profit food banks, shelters and
36 pantries.

Proposed Resolution #8

Submitted by: Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Preservation of Hunting Contests**

1 **WHEREAS**, organized hunting contests are prevalent across Michigan in various forms, such as rabbit
2 roundups, squirrel hunts, youth small game events, hunting retriever trials, and predator calling contests.

3 **WHEREAS**, these events are generally put on by local sportsmen’s clubs, churches, and non-profit
4 organizations in order to introduce youth to hunting, encourage families to spend time afield, and encourage
5 good sportsmanship & camaraderie among sporting communities; and

6 **WHEREAS**, these events are often focused on youth, can aid in hunter retention, and rekindle a love of
7 small game hunting in adults; and

8 **WHEREAS**, local economies are benefitted by the increased business they bring in (restaurants, fuel,
9 supplies, etc.); and

10 **WHEREAS**, organized events can be a good starting point to get people introduced to the outdoors, as well
11 as habitat improvements such as “rabbitat”; and

12 **WHEREAS**, certain contests can encourage harvest of animals that are overpopulated or causing duress to
13 other wildlife species, such as deer yards, ground nesting birds, and non-game, rare, & endangered species;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, coyote populations are expanding into urban areas increasing negative human/wildlife
16 encounters, including increased attacks on pets; NOW,

17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) should defend
18 hunting contests such as small game round ups, buck poles, and predator contests as legal hunting
19 opportunities that promote the benefits of R3, reinforcing the social and community aspects of hunting, as
20 well as the economic benefits to local economies; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC should work with member clubs to educate on best
22 management practices for public relations, communications and social media on these contests to the non-
23 hunting public to ensure that public perception of hunters remains neutral to positive; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC should support use of fur as a legitimate use of wildlife
25 management and that these contests should be encouraged to utilize the fur and wild game to its fullest
26 extent.

Proposed Resolution #9
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Member
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Diversify Funding For Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**

1 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has been in place since 1976. It
2 provides grants to local governments and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land or
3 rights in land for public recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or its
4 scenic beauty. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 **WHEREAS**, Michigan's natural gas production has declined over the past two decades, and in 2017
20 Michigan's gross withdrawals of natural gas were less than one-third of the state's 1997 peak¹; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the MNRTF has reached its \$500 million cap, with new revenue being directed to the State
22 Park Endowment Fund; and

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

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

29 **WHEREAS**, the amount of annual funding available to support basic infrastructure needs continues to be
30 insufficient to adequately address the backlog of maintenance, repair, and improvement projects; NOW,
31 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs use the strength of its
32 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the
33 state to support an addition to the MNRTF to include the extraction of renewable resources, or creation of
34 renewable energy; and

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

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

41 https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_sum_lsum_dcu_SMI_a.htm

Proposed Resolution #10
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Feral Cats as an Invasive Species**

1 **WHEREAS**, millions of free-roaming and feral cats (*Felis catus*) exist on the landscape as non-native,
2 obligate predators and as such, cause considerable damage to wildlife populations killing several
3 hundreds of millions (birds, small mammals, amphibian, reptiles and fish); and
4 **WHEREAS**, this represents a significant threat to the biodiversity/stability of ecosystems; and
5 **WHEREAS**, even a house cat allowed outside to roam and not in need of food will still hunt and kill
6 several animals each and every day; and
7 **WHEREAS**, most of free-roaming and feral cats suffer the vicissitudes of lives lived outdoors (disease,
8 weather extremes, starvation, trauma) and cannot be considered as being treated humanely and live
9 shorter brutal lives as a result; and
10 **WHEREAS**, these feral cats represent a human public health hazard as they carry several zoonotic
11 diseases such as toxoplasmosis, rabies, Francisella tularensis (trichinosis), Yersinia pestis (plague),
12 Microsporium canis (ringworm), and fleas carrying typhus, not to mention diseases they can transmit to
13 other cats (FeLV, FIV, FRDC); and
14 **WHEREAS**, current statutory status does not discriminate between feral and responsibly owned cats (but
15 merely as “domestic” which does not accurately describe the feral situation), and the eradication of feral
16 cats by the general public is considered a felony; NOW,
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will promote
18 the designation of feral cats as an invasive species and thereby subject to regulation as such; and
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC educate the public of the threat to public health and our
20 wildlife resources of this invasive species and the inhumane practice of releasing neutered cats back into
21 feral colonies.

Proposed Resolution #11

Submitted by: George Lindquist, MUCC President
MUCC Region: 1
Passed: September 28, 2019 Conservation Policy Board
Title: **Encourage the Use of Non-Lead Alternatives**

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

25 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That MUCC educate the sporting public of the potential impacts of
26 using lead, and the alternatives, for hunting ammunition, as well as fishing gear; and
27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the use of non-lead whenever these options are
28 available, and practical; and
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution does not apply to projectiles used at sport shooting
30 ranges.

Proposed Resolution #12
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club
MUCC Region: 2
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting, as amended
Title: **Add to MDNR Wolf Management Plan: Expand Hunting & Trapping Area for the Gray Wolf and Long-Term Population Goal for the Gray Wolf**

1 **WHEREAS**, the gray wolf is a candidate for removal from the Federal Endangered Species List by the
2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and
3 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) endorses the removal of gray wolves from
4 the Federal Endangered Species List in the Great Lakes Region; and
5 **WHEREAS**, research conducted by the Campfire Program in Wildlife Conservation in the Upper
6 Peninsula suggests that gray wolves are a primary predator of white-tailed deer year-round and especially
7 during the winter months; and
8 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Wolf Management Plan states that the Michigan Department of Natural
9 Resources should attempt to decrease human-wolf conflict by maintaining a healthy deer herd in the
10 Upper Peninsula to serve as a primary winter food source for wolves; and
11 **WHEREAS**, the MDNR Wolf Management Plan states that studies have examined wolf predation
12 success rates and recent estimates range from 30 to 50 deer eaten by each wolf each year; and
13 **WHEREAS**, the MDNR Wolf Management Plan states that wolf populations appear to remain stable or
14 increase in both Canada and Alaska even when hunters and trappers annually harvested 28% of the
15 population; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 1997 Michigan Wolf Recovery and Management Plan defined a viable population as the
17 maintenance of 200 individuals for five (5) consecutive years; and
18 **WHEREAS**, the Gray Wolf in Michigan has surpassed State and Federal population recovery goals for
19 more than 19 years and no longer warrant a threatened or endangered listing status in Michigan; NOW,
20 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, MUCC will work with the Michigan Department of Natural
21 Resources to revisit the Wolf Management Plan to expand the gray wolf harvest area to the entire Upper
22 Peninsula of Michigan; and
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for both hunting and trapping to be legal
24 methods of take for wolf harvest in Michigan; and
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for the Michigan Wolf Management Plan to
26 include a goal of maintaining a population of 300-400 Gray Wolves (up to twice the population required to
27 meet the delisting requirements in Michigan) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Proposed Resolution #13

Submitted by: Jack Ammerman, Michigan Gun Owners
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Rescind Outdated MUCC Policy AC740676 and AC760676 Regarding
Firearm Transportation in a Vehicle**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) passed two resolutions in 1976 to require that
2 all guns be encased, and the case be inaccessible when being transported in a motor vehicle and all guns be
3 locked in the trunk when being transported in a motor vehicle; and
4 **WHEREAS**, based on the rise of sports utility vehicles (SUV) and pickup truck sales the majority of
5 vehicles driven on Michigan's roads no longer have separated trunks; and
6 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has language that allows for various
7 legal alternatives to transporting firearms in a trunk (hunting and trapping digest page 21); and
8 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Legislature has since passed laws allowing firearms to be transported uncased
9 in the passenger area of the vehicle; and
10 **WHEREAS**, MUCC supports the safe handling of firearms; and
11 **WHEREAS**, twenty-five states allow firearms to be transported uncased in a vehicle; and

12 **WHEREAS**, transporting an unloaded firearm inside the vehicle has not been documented as a safety issue
13 in any of the states in our nation that allow it; NOW,
14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs' (MUCC) outdated
15 policy that all firearms being transported in a motor vehicle must be encased and the case positively secured
16 from access to vehicle occupants, policy AC740676 be rescinded; and
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MUCC's outdated policy that all firearms being transported in
18 a motor vehicle must be in the trunk of a vehicle, policy AC770676 be rescinded.

Proposed Resolution #14
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Further Measures to Facilitate the Elimination of Feral Swine**

19 **WHEREAS**, the elimination of feral swine in the state of Michigan has made great strides since their
20 designation as an invasive species as witnessed by the lack of many reports in the Lower Peninsula; and
21 **WHEREAS**, the prevention of stocking fenced facilities with European wild boar, an action supported by
22 advocacy and policy from Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), has been primarily responsible
23 for the discontinuance of escapees providing the continued presence of feral swine on the landscape; and
24 **WHEREAS**, in the past two years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health
25 Inspection Service's Wildlife Services Program has reported the presence of feral swine with a domestic
26 genetic background; and
27 **WHEREAS**, the origins of these pigs is unknown, there is the possibility that they were escapees from
28 game ranch facilities and/or backyard swineherds, but regardless they have the potential to provide a
29 continuation of the feral swine population as this species easily adapts to the feral situation; NOW,
30 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC advocate for all strains of swine to be banned from
31 game preserves for the purposes of hunting and be it further resolved that MUCC encourage the
32 permanent identification of any pig that is not raised in an enclosed, confined pork production facility

Proposed Resolution #15
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Leonard Shaner, MUCC Member
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Logging Quiet Time**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has had a long and wonderful history of deer hunting, and as this tradition
2 continues each November this special time has been defined by friends and family getting together for
3 some quiet time in the outdoors; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in some instances quiet time is being disturbed by logging operations that have been
5 permitted on state forest land during the firearm deer season seriously compromising peace and
6 tranquility the hunting public is seeking; and

7 **WHEREAS**, logging on State forest takes place in State Forest Lands because private lands are not
8 available at this time of year due to the owners wanting to enjoy the peace and quiet and an undisturbed
9 hunt; and

10 **WHEREAS**, logging operations cause noise and use restrictions due to heavy equipment operation and
11 people working, thereby interfering with the hunting public attempting to use the state forest. In addition,
12 these actions destroy roads making them impassable and unusable with anything other than heavy
13 equipment; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has seen a decline in deer hunting license sales in the past several years, operating
15 heavy logging equipment during the firearm deer season does not help attract new hunters to our state or
16 the retention of current hunters. Most people do not come to the Northern Forest to hear heavy equipment
17 ruin from dawn to dusk; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the State Forest constitutes public lands and are in fact owned by the citizenry of the state,
19 and the conditions of logging contracts should be stipulated on their behalf; NOW,

20 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) remain an advocate
21 for the Hunter and the use of State Forest lands for people to enjoy this time of year. To this end, MUCC
22 should work with the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division and the Wildlife Division to
23 modify logging permits so as to close all state forest to logging operations during the month of November

24 to allow hunters to enjoy the peace and quiet of State Forest lands without interference of logging
25 companies and their employees.

Proposed Resolution #16
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Chelsea Rod & Gun Club
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Reduced Youth Hunting Fees**

WHEREAS, the number of deer hunters in Michigan has been in steady decline since 1998. Down 21% through 2018 (Detroit Free Press); and

WHEREAS, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is reporting 2019 unique hunting license sales are down 3% from 2018 and unique sales have been in steady decline for many years; and

WHEREAS, MDNR depends on hunting and fishing license revenues to fund many different programs and operations; and

WHEREAS, recruitment of youth hunters is vital to preserving the hunting culture and traditions in 21st century Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the cost of hunting licenses to families with one or more youth hunters may be prohibitive in many instances; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs use its influence to urge the Michigan DNR and the state legislature to reduce hunting license fees for youth hunters under the age of 16 to a level equal to or less than the fees paid by senior hunters.

Proposed Resolution #17
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tim Muir, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Work with the MDNR to Align Free Fishing Weekend with Father's Day**

1 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to increase participation in fishing and the outdoors; and

2 **WHEREAS**, moving free fishing weekend to Father's Day would satisfy all three R's (Recruit, Retain, and

3 Reactivate) of the R3 program; and

4 **WHEREAS**, this would create opportunities for family members of multiple generations to reconnect, and
5 spend quality time together outdoors; and

6 **WHEREAS**, moving free fishing weekend would also be useful to various clubs and groups to schedule
7 outings designed around family participation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Father’s Day is the third Sunday in June, a day on which fathers are particularly honored by
9 their children; and

10 **WHEREAS**, for example in 2020 Father’s Day is June 21st and Free Fishing weekend is one week earlier
11 on June 13th and 14th; and

12 **WHEREAS**, fishing is on a downward trend with license sales down every year with a 2.5% decrease
13 from 2017 (1,134,421) to 2018 (1,105,345) and over a 3% decrease in the ten-year period ending in 2018;

14 NOW,

15 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with and
16 request from the MDNR that future free fishing weekends in the summer be aligned with Father’s Day in
17 an effort to increase participation in fishing.

Proposed Resolution #18
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Bruce Levey, MUCC Region 9
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Hunter Orange**

1 **WHEREAS**, for the same reason that all stop signs are red; and

2 **WHEREAS**, for the same reasons as all traffic lights have the same color configuration (i.e. red above
3 yellow above green); and

4 **WHEREAS**, the current hunter orange law is not broken and does not need fixed; and

5 **WHEREAS**, it is not reasonable to believe that people are not joining in, or just staying home, because
6 they feel the need to wear colors other than hunter orange; NOW,

7 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work to establish a
8 policy that “Hunter Orange” be the only color that is to be used as a safety color for hunting in the state
9 of Michigan.

Proposed Resolution #19
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Jack Ammerman, Michigan Gun Owners
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Work to Change Language in MCL that puts Michigan Hunters and Shooters in Jeopardy of Committing a Crime**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan statute regulates activities of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts; and
2 **WHEREAS**, under part 401, Wildlife Conservation, of the NATURAL RESOURCES AND
3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (MCL 324.40111) it is unlawful for a hunter or target shooter
4 to have an uncased firearm “in or upon” a vehicle; and
5 **WHEREAS**, most Michigan hunters and target shooters rely on a vehicle during hunting and target
6 shooting activities; and
7 **WHEREAS**, whether loaded or unloaded, leaning a shotgun, rifle, or handgun on an open tailgate or using
8 a truck’s hood as a bench rest during target shooting can lead to fines, confiscation or both; and
9 **WHEREAS**, individuals that violate this section of law are guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by
10 imprisonment for not more than 90 days, and/or a fine of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$2000.00, along
11 with the cost of prosecution; and
12 **WHEREAS**, it is far easier for hunters and target shooters to utilize the bumper, tailgate or hood of a
13 vehicle than it is to lean their firearm against the closest tree to the parked vehicle during a break; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Michigan allows certain individuals to carry loaded weapons in vehicles, whether stationary
15 or moving; and
16 **WHEREAS**, other states have recently removed similar language from their laws so that it is no longer a
17 crime to lean a firearm on a non-moving vehicle; and
18 **WHEREAS**, safely leaning or resting a shotgun, rifle, or handgun on a vehicle (tailgate, hood, etc.) or up
19 against a non-moving vehicle is not a safety hazard resulting in innocent shooters and hunters being cited
20 for unintentional violations; NOW,
21 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) recognizes
22 leaning or placing a firearm on a non-moving vehicle should not be a crime; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with the Michigan Legislature to actively pursue a
24 change in Michigan statute removing the prohibition concerning placement of firearms upon non-moving
25 vehicles.

Proposed Resolution #20

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: December 7, 2019 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: **Treatment Permits For The Treatment Of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

1 **WHEREAS**, the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is increasing in intensity and distribution; and
2 **WHEREAS**, the treatment of these species often requires a permit from the Department of Environment,
3 Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and
4 **WHEREAS**, EGLE is often restrained in the issuance of these permits by Convention of International
5 Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) considerations; and
6 **WHEREAS**, the implementation of treatment plans are often hindered by delay and/or prohibition based
7 on the uncertain presence of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna; and
8 **WHEREAS**, many of these programs are funded by taxpayer dollars through the establishment of Special
9 Assessment Districts and the public expects treatment s to expeditiously occur; and
10 **WHEREAS**, recent regulatory provisions have been made for the expedited permit issuance of volunteer
11 wetland improvement projects through a joint review by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
12 (MDNR) and EGLE representatives in order to prevent unnecessary delay and thereby providing biologists
13 input to the process; NOW,
14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC promote more DNR biologist input into the permit
15 approval process to assess the risk/benefit of treatment regimens and the impact on other native populations
16 of flora and fauna while considering the potential benefit of reducing the threat of AIS.

Proposed Resolution #21
Requires 2/3 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)**

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

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

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

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

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the establishment of boat wash
13 facilities/capabilities at state public launches particularly where the presence of AIS is established and the
14 risk of spread is most likely.

Proposed Resolution #22
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Joe Sommers, U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County
MUCC Region: 1
Passed: March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Clarify ATV Helmet Laws

1 **WHEREAS**, new helmet laws in Michigan state that a person who rides a motorcycle, moped, utility
2 terrain vehicle (UTV), does not have to wear a helmet; NOW,

3 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs shall work with the
4 Michigan Legislature and Michigan Department of Natural Resources to change necessary state
5 regulations such that the adult rider, driver or occupant of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), quad or 4-wheeler
6 not be required to wear a helmet.

Proposed Resolution #23

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

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

3 **WHEREAS**, MUCC Organizational Values are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **WHEREAS**, Balloon releases are simply sanctioned littering events; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT
23 451 of 1994 section 324.8905a littering is a state civil infraction with appropriate fines

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

26 (2) A person who violates this part, if the amount of the litter is 1 cubic foot or more but less than
27 3 cubic feet in volume, is responsible for a state civil infraction and is subject to a civil fine of not
28 more than \$1,500.00; and

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

32 **WHEREAS**, California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia currently have legal restrictions.
33 While Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and
34 Maine have legislation introduced to restrict releases; NOW,

35 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs use the strength of its
36 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the
37 state to oppose commercial, or public balloon releases; and

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with our national affiliate National Wildlife
39 Federation, or other like-minded organizations, to also encourage education and littering enforcement in
40 other states that have the potential to impact our natural resources here in Michigan.

Interim Resolution #24
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan
MUCC region: 8
Proposed: June 17, 2020 Executive Board Meeting
Title: **Encouraging Full Appointments to the Natural Resource
Commission**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has worked diligently to ensure that science remains
2 at the forefront of fisheries and wildlife policymaking in the state of Michigan; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the leaders of the state of Michigan, in collaboration with stakeholder
4 groups like MUCC, have determined that the best mechanism by which to incorporate science into natural
5 resource management and insulate decisions from politics is through the Natural Resources Commission (NRC);
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, the state legislature has delegated (and reaffirmed) the exclusive authority to regulate the taking of
8 game and sportfish, and the designation of game species to the NRC; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the people of the state of Michigan have also affirmed the authority of the NRC through Proposal G
10 of 1998 – a ballot resolution which passed by a two-thirds majority; and

11 **WHEREAS**, boards and commissions that are full are able to represent more opinions, more closely review
12 topics within their jurisdiction, and more carefully consider orders under their purview; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the NRC is a seven-member body, but currently only has four commissioners seated; and

14 **WHEREAS**, all currently appointed commissioners must be present for the NRC to consist of a quorum to do
15 business.

16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC will encourage, and work with, the Governor’s office to fill
17 vacancies on the NRC by appointment; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will encourage members of the state Senate to seriously
19 and judiciously consider appointments made by the Governor to ensure the best possible candidates are
20 appointed to the NRC, pursuant to MUCC Internal Policy AC030619 (“Michigan Natural Resource
21 Commission Appointment Criteria;” a resolution passed in 2019).