

Proposed Resolution #1
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: George Lindquist, Past President
MUCC region: 1
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Gates on Commercial Forest Act Properties

1. **WHEREAS:** Increasingly, gates are being put up on Commercial Forest lands on roads that were
2. formally open to vehicular access by the public; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** The Commercial Forest Act does not require Commercial Forest lands to allow vehicle access,
4. landowners are required to allow foot traffic for hunting, fishing, and trapping; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** To most, seeing a road with a gate signifies private property/do not enter; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** Currently, there is no easy way to know whether gated land is open to the public or not; NOW,
7. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MUCC work with the State Legislature to enact changes to the
8. Commercial Forest Act to require that any gates put up on Commercial Forest Lands be labeled with the contact
9. person's name and contact information, through signage, or readily identified with a universal system, such as
10. paint color, as Commercial Forest Land and open to foot traffic by the public.

Proposed Resolution #2
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: George Lindquist, Past President
MUCC region: 1
Proposed: June 26, 2021 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: **MUCC Supports Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel as Best Alternative**

1 **WHEREAS**, a 2018 Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) resolution spelled out issues
2 with the current oil and gas pipeline that runs along the bottom of the Straights of Mackinaw, and
3 asked for consideration of alternatives to the current pipeline; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, trucking, rail or boats are much riskier, safety wise, and wholly inefficient for
5 moving materials such as this; and,

6 **WHEREAS**, since this resolution has passed, Enbridge has proposed a much safer method of
7 crossing the Great Lakes via a deep, underground tunnel, using the latest technology and safety
8 standards; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, the notion of just shutting this important infrastructure down is no different than
10 asking to shut off all utilities to your home. Some 55% of all propane in Michigan is transported
11 through this line, among many other benefits that we may, or may not readily see; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, while we all appreciate alternatives to fossil fuels, MUCC has to realize that the
13 world will be dependent on the safe delivery of fossil fuels such as these, for some time to come;
14 NOW,

15 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC support Enbridge's underground tunnel
16 project as an important infrastructure update, and that this be carried out in the safest, most
17 reliable manner possible; and,

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the state requires Enbridge to be responsible financially for the
19 construction and operation of the tunnel holding the state harmless, that Enbridge provide the State with

20 financial assurances (not including self insurance) that would cover cleanup of a catastrophic release to
21 the Straits and that the company submits an acceptable monitoring plan.

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC ask the State of Michigan to work with Enbridge
23 and its contractors to move this project forward.

Proposed Resolution #3
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: George Lindquist, Past President
MUCC region: 1
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Siting of Solar Farms on State Land

1. **WHEREAS:** Increasingly, large scale solar energy production sites are in our future here in Michigan; and,
2. **WHEREAS:** There is growing pressure to buy, or lease our State lands for solar farms; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** Solar farms are often biological deserts covered with non native grass of little value to wildlife,
4. even essential pollinating insects; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Where these solar farms will be located, is a concern for all that use and recreate on our State
6. lands because these farms will eliminate wildlife habitat, displace wildlife, and reduce or eliminate recreational
7. use of those lands; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** It may not be a good carbon trade off to cut down a forest to build solar farms; and,
9. **WHEREAS:** Public Act 47 of 2009 was signed by the Governor, stating that there shall be no net loss of state
10. hunting lands; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** It is imperative that the DNR adhere to this important legislation when determining future use of
12. state owned lands; and,
13. **WHEREAS:** Based on the Legislation that is supposed to protect state hunting lands, guidelines should be
14. developed that protect our quality forests, and recreational lands; NOW,
15. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MUCC recommend to the DNR and Legislature, if need be, that the
16. DNR not sell, lease, or give up rights to public lands unless clear guidelines are developed with a public input
17. process for doing so, and those guidelines should include wording that solar farms only be allowed in areas
18. ill-suited for other uses; and,
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the MUCC work with the DNR and legislature to ensure that any solar

20. farms subsequently built on public land be planted in native pollinator mixes and paved areas minimized.

Proposed Resolution #4
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Ronald Burris, Past President, Region 7 Director
MUCC region: 7
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Hunter's Safety Training at Local Clubs

1. **WHEREAS:** Hunter Safety classes have traditionally been offered at local clubs; and,
2. **WHEREAS:** in-person learning is preferable to online as described in an article by the Walkerton Academy of
3. North Carolina; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** in person instruction allows better understanding of the material by the students; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Interaction with other students and instructor can emphasize the importance of one's actions while
6. handling a firearm and/or hunting while enhancing social skills; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** in person learning allows for additional support for students with special needs; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** More and more clubs and seasoned instructors are choosing to leave the hunters safety program
9. because of the online requirements and virtual classes, leaving a critical void in the traditional club and instructor
10. participation; NOW,
11. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
12. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to defend the in-person Hunter Safety field day and test at local clubs as
13. the first priority and virtual instruction a second choice when only in person is not available; and;
14. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs actively encourage and recruit clubs and
15. instructors to participate in in-person Hunter Safety Classes; and,
16. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs start a dialogue with the appropriate
17. authority about reasonable compensation, for ammunition and targets, to encourage more clubs and more
18. instructors to sponsor and participate in Hunter Safety Classes.

Proposed Resolution #5
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Region 5
MUCC region: 5
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Hunter Education

1. **WHEREAS:** Hunter Education Instructors are concerned about the recent push by the Michigan Department of
2. Natural Resources to utilize the virtual platform for the Hunter Education Program for the lecture portion; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** studies conducted by the Michigan Department of Education have proven that online/virtual
4. learning is not as successful as projected and that the education gap continues to grow and there is no replacement
5. for in person instruction; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** instructors would like clarification regarding who is liable if a student is passed who is not safe in
7. the field; NOW,
8. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the MDNR
9. Education division to establish a committee of representatives from the MDNR, Hunter Education Coordinators,
10. and Instructors to re-evaluate the current program: to address safety concerns, criteria for successful completion,
11. and acceptable instruction; and,
12. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the committee meet **semi**-annually to evaluate the successes and
13. weaknesses of the program.

Proposed Resolution #6
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michael Riepen, Michigan Deer Track'n Hounds Tracking Club
MUCC region: 8
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Resolution to provide an exception for the use of drones/UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) for the recovery of legally hunted big game animals.

1. **WHEREAS**, 324.0111c of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, popular Name: NREPA,
2. prevents the use of Drones/UAS to “take” game; and,
3. **WHEREAS**, The definition of “take” is broadly and ambiguously defined in Michigan; and,
4. **WHEREAS**, the moral and legal duty unquestionably exists to put forth every reasonable effort to recover an
5. animal that has been wounded while hunting; and,
6. **WHEREAS**, Similar exceptions of those sought are currently in place in the Michigan Wildlife Conservation
7. Order for the use of tracking dogs to recover legally hunted, wounded game; NOW,
8. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work to provide an exception for
9. the use of drones/UAS for the ethical recovery of legally hunted, wounded big game animals on private land only
10. with permission following the current DNR conservation order pertaining to tracking dogs; and,
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support and work with the State
12. Legislature, The Department of Natural Resources, and The Natural Resources Commission to amend any laws or
13. policies contradictory to the purposes of the above suggested changes; and to provide exceptions for the specific
14. goal of recovering an already wounded, legally hunted big game animal.

Proposed Resolution #7
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Abraham Downer, MUCC Conservation Policy Board
Travis Powers, MUCC Executive Board
MUCC region: 3 & 8
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Resolution to recommend that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, always have a dedicated, full-time Upland Game Bird Specialist on staff.

1. **WHEREAS:** currently, there is no dedicated, full-time Upland Game Bird Specialist employed by the Michigan
2. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, has had a full- time Upland
4. Game Bird Specialist(s) employed since 1944; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** prior to the previous Upland Game Bird Specialist, The State of Michigan, Wildlife Division, had
6. employed several biologists, with each biologist having expertise in a specific Upland Game Bird Species. These
7. positions were all combined into one position when the previous Upland Game Bird Specialist was hired; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** the State of Michigan, Wildlife Division, has stated that it may choose to distribute the
9. responsibilities of the current Upland Game Bird Specialist’s position among existing biologists within the
10. agency, creating more work for them without increasing the number of staff, potentially leading to a decreased
11. quality of conservation management for upland game bird species; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** the State of Michigan hosts several upland game species, including: ruffed grouse, American
13. woodcock, the Eastern wild turkey, pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and bobwhite quail; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** Michigan is a premier hunting destination for these species; and,
15. **WHEREAS:** the State of Michigan depends on an \$8.9 billion hunting industry (as according to MUCCs 2017
16. Economic Impact Study) that brings tourism dollars into local, small-town communities where grouse and
17. woodcock are pursued; and,

18. **WHEREAS:** in 2015 an estimated 83,175 hunters pursued ruffed grouse, 29,647 hunters pursued
19. American woodcock, and 23,209 hunters pursued pheasant; and,
20. **WHEREAS:** the State of Michigan leads all other states in American woodcock harvest, active American
21. woodcock hunters, and days spent afield pursuing American woodcock; and,
22. **WHEREAS:** pheasants are an important resource for Southern Michigan residents; and,
23. **WHEREAS:** after Eastern turkey reintroduction efforts began in Michigan in 1954, their population has grown
24. from under 1,000 birds to an estimated 200,000+ as a direct result of the work done by the Department's Upland
25. Game Bird Specialist; and,
26. **WHEREAS:** the Upland Game Bird Specialist is responsible for managing and growing Michigan's Grouse
27. Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS) program, which drives tourism revenue in local communities; and,
28. **WHEREAS:** Michigan is continually in the top three states of ruffed grouse harvest annually; and,
29. **WHEREAS:** Upland game species are considered a bellwether for other game species; and,
30. **WHEREAS:** upland game bird species are facing population declines and habitat loss; and,
31. **WHEREAS:** there are many non-profit organizations operating in the State of Michigan with direct interest in
32. maintaining stable and sustainable populations of upland game species; NOW,
33. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) support and advocate
34. that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, continue to have a dedicated, full-time
35. Upland Game Bird Specialist employed by the agency.

Proposed Resolution #8
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Abraham Downer, MUCC Conservation Policy Board
Travis Powers, MUCC Executive Board

MUCC region: 3 & 8

Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting

Title: Resolution to recommend that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, study the American Woodcock population, its habitat and develop a long-term plan to address their declining population.

1. **WHEREAS**, the American Woodcock is attracted to moist, young forests and require a young, dense woodland to
2. provide ample cover and food resources. They tend to use edges rather than the interior of big, even-age thickets;
3. and,
4. **WHEREAS**, during both migrations, they need sufficient food resources and layover sites. Courtship sites in
5. spring consists of forest clearings, abandoned fields spotted with low brush or open fields next to forest edges.
6. Sites vary in size, but a quarter of an acre seems to provide adequate space for the courtship ritual; and,
7. **WHEREAS**, Michigan's surplus growing forestry stock (annual net growth less harvests) is among the largest in
8. the nation, with forests currently growing more than twice as much wood than is being harvested each year, and
9. this trend is expected to continue; and,
10. **WHEREAS**, the modern decline of seral aspen-birch association forests has major consequences for hunting
11. interests that have become accustomed to high populations of game species that are adapted to and have thrived in
12. this habitat, including ruffed grouse, the American Woodcock, and white-tailed deer; and,
13. **WHEREAS**, the American Woodcock population is decreasing by .89 percent each year in the Central Region
14. that includes Michigan and shows a significant long term decrease according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service;
15. and,
16. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a Conservation Plan in 2008 and detailed there has

17. been a loss of over 829,000 singing male Woodcock since the early 1970s. This corresponds to a
18. population-density deficit of over 986,000 males. Approximately 20.8 million acres (8.4 million ha) of new
19. woodcock habitat needs to be created in order to eliminate this deficit and return woodcock densities to those
20. observed during the early 1970s; and,

21. **WHEREAS**, Michigan is the top producing state for American Woodcock harvest, bands nearly 2000 chicks each
22. spring and conducts spring singing surveys for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service but is one of many states that
23. does not currently have an official plan in place to address the population and habitat loss; and,

24. **WHEREAS**, the Michigan DNR does not manage Zone Three State Recreational and State Game areas
25. specifically for wildlife including the American Woodcock habitat and this area is important as they migrate south
26. in the fall and north in the spring; and,

27. **WHEREAS**, Michigan is a premier hunting destination for this species; and,

28. **WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan depends on an \$8.9 billion hunting industry (as according to MUCCs 2017
29. Economic Impact Study) that brings tourism dollars into local, small-town communities where grouse and
30. woodcock are pursued; and,

31. **WHEREAS**, in 2015 an estimated 29,647 hunters pursued American woodcock; and,

32. **WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan leads all other states in American woodcock harvest, active American
33. woodcock hunters, and days spent afield pursuing American woodcock; and,

34. **WHEREAS**, Upland game species are considered a bellwether for other game species; and,

35. **WHEREAS**, upland game bird species are facing population declines and habitat loss; and,

36. **WHEREAS**, there are many non-profit organizations operating in the State of Michigan with direct interest in
37. maintaining stable and sustainable populations of woodcock; NOW,

38. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) support and advocate
39. that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, study the current American Woodcock
40. population, its habitat and develop a long-term plan to address their population and habitat decline.

Proposed Resolution #9
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller
MUCC region: 5
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: State Land Access Closures

1. **WHEREAS:** Public access to state lands is being lost and has been lost due to closure of trails/ roads that
2. previously provided access to these lands; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** Many of these trail/road closures result from private landowners acquiring ownership of both
4. sides of an existing trail/road that leads to state property and gating these roads/trails off; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** This allows a private landowner to gain ownership of a trail/road that leads to many acres of
6. state land and greatly reduces and/or eliminates accessibility to that public property by the general
7. public; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** This abuse can offer a great opportunity to a private landowner to own a little piece of
9. property but gain control over many acres of land through limitation of access by the public; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** The purpose of this resolution is to address loss of public access to established roads/trails
11. that have historically allowed public access. This is not intended to include privately built trails or
12. driveways that are intended to be used solely for private land access; NOW,
13. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Club) work with the DNR
14. (Department Natural Resources) and Michigan Legislature to not allow the blockage of a trail or road system that
15. accesses state property by a private landowner claiming ownership to such trail or road; and,
16. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That MUCC work with the DNR to create a system that does not allow the
17. sale of state lands that have an existing trail or road necessary for access to other public state properties without
18. maintaining a right of way to all associated state, public property associated with said trail/road. This right of way
19. will need to maintain or improve the level of access available prior to the sale to private property.

Interim Resolution
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan Resource Stewards
MUCC region: 9
Proposed: Passed May 4, 2022 Executive Board Meeting
Title: Reaffirmation of MUCC's dedication and belief in Proposal G and an independent, transparent Natural Resources Commission.

1. **WHEREAS:** MUCC was founded in 1937 to insulate our state's game, fish, minerals, air, water, forests, and land
2. resources of the state from politics; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** throughout its history, MUCC has been the watchdog over the Michigan Department of Natural
4. Resources (MDNR), ensuring decisions which affect the natural resources are made with public participation and
5. based on professional scientific management of fish and wildlife resources; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** it is important that the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the MDNR provide for full and
7. complete public notice, access and participation to meetings, deliberations and decisions affecting our natural
8. resources; and,
9. **WHEREAS:** MUCC has long affirmed that the Natural Resources Commission should have broad authority for
10. the control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of bird, fish, game, and all wildlife
11. resources of the state; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** MUCC and other conservation, hunting, trapping, and angling groups worked to draft and pass
13. Proposal G in 1996; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** Proposal G amended the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to grant
15. the NRC exclusive authority to regulate the manner and method of take of game species; and,
16. **WHEREAS:** Proposal G was passed by Michigan voters with an overwhelming 68.7% of the vote; and,
17. **WHEREAS:** The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act is a 2014 law initiated by petition and enacted by
18. the Legislature that reenacted many provisions of several Public Acts regarding hunting and fishing that had been

19. invalidated by referendum or judicial action; and,
20. **WHEREAS:** the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act preserved the legacy of Proposal G and expanded
21. the authority of the NRC; and,
22. **WHEREAS:** The MDNR, under this administration, has made repeated and continued attempts to separate
23. authority from the NRC, citing MCL 324.40107, which runs contrary to the intent and spirit of Proposal
24. G; and,
25. **WHEREAS:** Since the passage of Proposal G in 1996, this is the first administration to publicly separate
26. authority in such a manner; NOW,
27. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That MUCC take action to ensure Proposal G's original intent is upheld.