



2023 MUCC Post Convention Resolutions and Summaries

Prepared by MUCC Staff

PASSED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1

Submitted by: Steve Dey, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Wolf – Dog Conflict Reporting

Because of the importance of reporting wolf-dog conflicts MUCC will work with the DNR to add a 'Wolf-Dog Conflict' tab to the wildlife viewing section and will work with the DNR to include a "wolf-dog conflict" reporting tool in the DNR smartphone app, which would enable all dog owners who had a wolf-dog conflict to voluntarily report it. MUCC will also work with the DNR to include an option to report "wolf-livestock conflict" on the smartphone app.

Resolution #2

Submitted by: Greg Peter, Immediate Past President
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Wake Boat Regulations

MUCC to advocate for the elimination of these craft (wake boats) from vulnerable waters and limit their use to depths of greater than 20 feet and further from shorelines, docks, and other riparian uses to greater than 500 feet.

Resolution #3

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Life Member & Zach Snyder, Individual Member
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Establish Turkey Harvest Reporting

That MUCC work with the DNR and the Natural Resource Commission to enact a turkey harvest reporting system, in conjunction with the new DNR app-based reporting system.

Resolution #4

Submitted by: Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: License for Special Needs Individuals

Michigan United Conservation Clubs to advocate for a system for special needs individuals who cannot pass a hunters safety test, as signed off by an appropriate medical professional, to be able to hunt indefinitely with a mentor.

Resolution #5

Submitted by: Bruce Hall, Cass County Conservation Club
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Easier Access to Michigan Recreational Passports

Michigan United Conservation Clubs to work with the Michigan Legislature and the appropriate state agencies to create a more efficient system to make the Recreational Passport immediately available.

Resolution #6

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, State Advisory Council President, NDA
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Game Tracking Dog Use

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) shall support changes and amendments to tracking dog regulations to encourage the increased use of trained game-tracking dogs and skilled dog handlers whose dogs are under control at all times and will not enter properties without permission. If the tracking dog is off lead, a reliable means of tracking dog control should be employed to assure property boundary compliance and must be registered with the Michigan DNR as a tracker and if the handler loses control of the tracking dog and it enters an adjoining property without permission, the handler should adhere to current Michigan game laws governing the legal means of recovering hunting dogs from private property. MUCC shall support for tracking dogs and their handlers to be: registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), possess a valid Concealed pistol license, have passed a United Blood Trackers level 1 or greater test. If the dog is off-lead, the dog and handler should successfully complete the new United Blood Trackers off-lead test that was established in 2022.

Resolution #7

Submitted by: Bob Schulz, President, Metro West Steelheaders
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Pontoon Registration Fee/Renewal Fee

Michigan United Conservation Clubs shall seek to have MCL 324.80124 be amended so that all motorized watercraft vessels pay the same registration/renewal fees based on length.

Resolution #9

Submitted by: Zach Snyder, Individual Member, Conservation Policy Board Member
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Retention of Bear Points

Michigan United Conservation Clubs support and advocate through the Natural Resources Commission and Michigan DNR to allow for the retention of a hunter's accrued preference points when purchasing a leftover bear license.

Resolution #10

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Past President
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: State Park Endowment Fund (SPEF) Oversight

Michigan United Conservation Clubs will discuss the establishment of a similar governing body for the SPEF to make decisions as to the disbursement of the fund for acquisition, improvement, and restoration (capital expenditures) and not for operations (recognizing that any such project will have a certain % of labor cost and staff time needed above and beyond the normal operating costs of the Division – a % to be considered by the suggested board as that which is appropriate to the grant proposal).

Resolution #11

Submitted by: Ken Dalton, Individual Member
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Expansion of Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment

Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources Commission to support the expansion of release sites available for public pheasant hunting with the goal of getting more pheasant hunters into the field.

Resolution #12

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, State Advisory Council President, NDA
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Green Solar Energy on Private Lands

Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the State of Michigan and affiliated agencies, Michigan State University, the Michigan Legislature, and other stakeholder groups to develop and implement improved solar zoning, site recommendations, recommend reclamation bond, land-owner education and legislation to ensure that implement solar projects that are truly beneficial to Michigan's natural resources.

Resolution #13

Submitted by: Steve Dey & Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Natural Resources Commission Meeting Locations

Michigan United Conservation Clubs will work with the NRC and DNR to have 3 meetings in the Upper Peninsula per year.

Resolution #14

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Life Member
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Reaffirm MUCC's opposition to Camp Grayling expansion

Michigan United Conservation Clubs seeks Camp Grayling's full and total compliance with all federal, state and local environmental laws by the Department of Military Affairs. MUCC reaffirms its commitment to opposition to Camp Grayling expansion per resolution BR011089 and opposes any further expansion and MUCC will work with the DNR and National Guard to minimize environmental impact and maximize recreational opportunity and any expansion that may take place will not negatively impact DNR budget. In those instances where public lands can no longer be managed as an environmental resource for public recreation, the department be compensated for by some mitigation acceptable to the Natural Resources Commission, legislature, or appropriate public entity.

Resolution #15

Submitted by: Steven Lomonaco, Region 5
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Recreational Vehicle Education

Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resource Commission and instructors to study the feasibility of combining the snowmobile and off-road vehicle (ORV) education programs and that the consolidation includes the combining of instructional material, the certificate, and the final exam and if the feasibility

study supports consolidation action be taken to combine the programs. DNR recreational safety staff work with current ORV and snowmobile instructors to come up with a blueprint of what the new books should look like and what should be on the test.

Resolution #16

Submitted by: Rob Miller, Vice President & Leonard Shaner, Executive Board
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Mandatory Deer Harvest Reporting Requirements

Following this year of education, a violation be dropped from a misdemeanor crime to a civil infraction. The requirement of sharing your location be changed from exact property to listing the county, town range and section where the successful hunt took place. The time allowed for reporting be changed to 72 hours after the harvest, or 24 hours after returning home from a remote camp with inadequate access to service. Michigan United Conservation Clubs to work with the MDNR, the NRC and/or the Michigan Legislature to support the above changes to this new harvest reporting requirement.

Resolution #17

Submitted by: Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Add Cormorant Control to the DNR Budget and Implement Cormorant Control

MUCC will work with the Michigan DNR to find the annual funding, a minimum of \$250,000.00, and re-implement the very successful United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program of cormorant control utilizing volunteers.

WITHDRAWN RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #8

Submitted by: Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
Passed:
Title: Extension of Apprentice Hunting License Timeline

That Michigan United Conservation Clubs advocates for allowing Michigan's hunters to hunt legally under an apprentice license for three years if they take at least the online hunter safety education program in the first two years to provide a provisional certificate until the hunter safety in-person field portion can be completed.

PASSED
Resolution #1
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Steve Dey, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Wolf – Dog Conflict Reporting

1. **WHEREAS:** it is vitally important for all dog owners to promptly report a Wolf-Dog conflict to
2. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** prompt reporting is important to the all dog owners it is also important to the
4. DNR biologist to respond quickly to gather important data for their reporting and records;
5. and,
6. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) supports recommendations of the
7. 2022 Wolf Management Advisory Council which included recommendations about prompt
8. reporting of wolf –dog conflicts; and,
9. **WHEREAS:** the DNR now has a smartphone app where the public can now easily report their
10. deer harvest and wildlife viewing; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** According to the DNR deer harvest reporting took only a few minutes on average;
12. and,
13. **WHEREAS:** A system to report wolf-dog conflicts need not be anymore cumbersome on the
14. user; NOW,
15. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** because of the importance of reporting wolf-dog
16. conflicts MUCC will work with the DNR to add a 'Wolf-Dog Conflict' tab to the wildlife
17. viewing section, and,
18. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the DNR to include a "wolf-dog conflict"
19. reporting tool in the DNR smartphone app, which would enable all dog owners who had a
20. wolf-dog conflict to voluntarily report it.
21. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC will work with the DNR to also include an option to
22. report "wolf-livestock conflict" on the smartphone app.

PASSED
Resolution #2
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Greg Peter, Immediate Past President
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Wake Boat Regulations

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) policy resolution entitled – Establish
2. Regulations on the Operation of Wake Boats passed at convention in 2013; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** this resolution stated specifications concerning the size of the lake (2,000 acres)
4. and recommended distance from shore (1000 feet) without substantiating scientific analysis;
5. and,
6. **WHEREAS:** one of the fastest growing segment of the boating industry is the sale of wake
7. boats (wakeboard boats outsell ski boats 4 to 1); and,
8. **WHEREAS:** the attendant wave formation has been shown to be a hazard to other water sport
9. participants as well as damaging to the shoreline and lake bottom habitats especially with
10. repeated passes along the same course; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** other Midwestern states with a large number of inland lakes (Minnesota.
12. Wisconsin, Michigan) have seen an increase in the use of and the conflicts caused by these
13. boats as well as waters in Oregon, Maine, and Vermont; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin has passed a hazardous wake law (Statute 30.68) stating under the
15. heading "Creating hazardous wake or wash -(a) No person shall operate a motorboat so as to
16. approach or pass another boat in such a manner as to create a hazardous wake or wash. (b) An
17. operator of a motorboat is liable for any damage caused to the person or property of another by
18. the wake or wash from such motorboat...and no person may operate a motorboat within 100
19. feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of
20. slow-no-wake. Furthermore no person may operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess
21. of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake and(b) No person may operate a
22. personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of any other boat; and,
23. **WHEREAS:** these boats cannot easily be cleaned of invasive aquatic plants (a requirement by
24. law in Michigan); and,
25. **WHEREAS:** the creation of these waves is not compatible to other boating activities (paddle
26. board kayak, sailboat) and the reverse is not true; and,
27. **WHEREAS:** modern wakeboard boats can quickly pump 1,000 pounds of water into ballast
28. tanks and make the boats wake three times normal size and these are not normal waves for

29. inland lakes and are devastating to spawning and nesting beds as well as shorelines; and,
30. **WHEREAS:** current studies at the St. Anthony Falls laboratory of the University of Minnesota
31. reveal the typical wake does not dissipate to form and energy of a normal ski boat until
32. greater than 500 feet and current studies show the disturbance of bottom sediments in less than
33. 20 feet of water and resuspension of bottom sediments promotes harmful algae blooms as well
34. as disturbing fish habitat (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2iEI-duivl>); and,
35. **WHEREAS:** This is not intended to be a ban but a regulation that minimizes the impact on the
36. environment and other uses of our waterways; and,
37. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC advocate for the elimination of these craft from
38. vulnerable waters and limit their use to depths of greater than 20 feet and further from
39. shorelines, docks, and other riparian uses to greater than 500 feet.

PASSED
Resolution #3
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Life Member & Zach Snyder, Individual Member
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Establish Turkey Harvest Reporting

1. **WHEREAS:** Current methods utilized to determine our turkey flock size and harvest quotas, are
2. largely based on estimates, historical quotas, and voluntary contributions from hunters; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** To do our best in managing the turkey flock we need to gather accurate
4. information; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Michigan ranks seventh in the nation for the number of wild turkeys killed by
6. hunters, according to the National Wild Turkey Federation. The top turkey hunting states, in
7. order, are Missouri, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York and Mississippi,
8. (<https://www.minwtf.org/wild-turkeys-carve-out-place-in-michigan>);and,
9. **WHEREAS:** in Missouri all turkey must be Telechecked online, using the MO Hunting app, or by
10. telephone; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** in Alabama Game Check became mandatory in fall 2016 (it was voluntary the prior
12. year). This portion of the regulation requires all hunters to report their harvested deer or turkey
13. within 48 hours and record the confirmation number on the Harvest Record (either in paper
14. form, on the Outdoor AL app, or via telephone at 1-800-888-7690; and,
15. **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania requires that within 10 days of harvest (five days for mentored
16. hunters), turkey hunters must report harvests to the Game Commission, either by going online
17. to the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, calling toll-free, or by sending in a
18. postage-paid report card received with this digest; and,
19. **WHEREAS:** in Wisconsin registration is mandatory for all deer, bear, turkey, sharp-tailed
20. grouse, bobcat, fisher and otter and is accomplished using gamereg.wi.gov; and,
21. **WHEREAS:** in New York for both fall and spring turkey, you must report via the new DECALS
22. reporting system within 7 days; and,
23. **WHEREAS:** all hunters in Mississippi have to report their harvest before 10 p.m. on the day of
24. harvest; and,
25. **WHEREAS:** Michigan's Turkey quotas were mentioned by the current Wildlife Chief as being
26. arbitrary at the August 11, 2022 Natural Resources Commission meeting; and,
27. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) was the driving force behind the
28. successful voter passage of Proposal G: a referendum on Public Act 377 of 1996, which

29. amended the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to grant the
30. Natural Resources Commission (NRC) exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game in this
31. state. The amendment also requires the NRC, to the greatest extent practicable, to use
32. principles of sound scientific management in making decisions regarding the taking of game;
33. and,
34. **WHEREAS:** more accurate data would aid in furthering sound scientific management to allow
35. for improved wild turkey population health, and increased hunting opportunities; and,
36. **WHEREAS:** infrastructure for reporting the harvest of whitetail deer in Michigan currently exists
37. allowing for a low cost transition for other species; NOW,
38. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MUCC work with the DNR and the Natural Resource
39. Commission to enact a turkey harvest reporting system, in conjunction with the new DNR
40. app-based reporting system.

PASSED
Resolution #4
Requires $\frac{2}{3}$ Majority

Submitted by: Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: License for Special Needs Individuals

1. **WHEREAS:** The mentored youth hunting license requires a mentored youth hunter to be
2. within arms reach of a licensed parent or guardian, or a 21-year-old licensed hunter approved
3. by the parent or guardian; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** The apprentice license is no cheaper than traditional hunting licenses; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Currently an apprentice hunter can only hunt on an apprentice license for two
6. years before they are required to take hunters safety to continue hunting; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** The purpose of hunters safety is to prepare an individual to hunt safely alone; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** There are anecdotal reports of large numbers of hunters safety instructors leaving
9. the program statewide; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** This has led to prospective students having a hard time finding a class they are
11. able to take, particularly in rural areas; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** The number of hunters nationwide is decreasing rapidly; and,
13. **WHEREAS:** We have a responsibility as conservationists to ensure the next generation
14. continues to have hunting opportunities; and,
15. **WHEREAS:** Special needs individuals exist that can perform the physical requirements of
16. hunting with assistance but lack the capacity to pass a written hunters safety test; and,
17. **WHEREAS:** These hunters will always require assistance when in the field; and,
18. **WHEREAS:** Currently there exists no mechanism for such an individual to continue hunting past
19. the two years on an apprentice license; NOW,
20. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs advocate for a system
21. for special needs individuals who cannot pass a hunters safety test, as signed off by an
22. appropriate medical professional, to be able to hunt indefinitely with a mentor.

PASSED
Resolution #5
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Bruce Hall, Cass County Conservation Club
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Easier Access to Michigan Recreational Passports

1. **WHEREAS:** a Recreational Passport is required at State Parks, Boat Launches and other
2. locations in Michigan, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** these Recreational Passports are available only when you purchase your license
4. plates, or log online and wait days, and sometimes weeks, to receive your Recreational
5. Passport in the mail, or at specified State Parks, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** the Recreational Passport is also required for out-of-state visitors, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** this limited availability can be a deterrent to the use of the facilities requiring a
8. Recreational Passport, NOW;
9. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the
10. Michigan Legislature and the appropriate state agencies to create a more efficient system to
11. make the Recreational Passport immediately available.

PASSED
Resolution #6
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, State Advisory Council President, NDA
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Game Tracking Dog Use

1. **WHEREAS:** The use of game-tracking dogs is becoming increasingly popular to aid in
2. the recovery of wounded deer, bear, and elk; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** the use of trained game-tracking dogs and their skilled handlers is of
4. immeasurable benefit to ethical hunters seeking to do all they can to recover wounded or
5. lost deer, bear, and elk; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** Uncontrolled tracking dogs and their handlers entering properties without
7. permission could lead to dangerous conflicts with property owners; NOW,
8. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
9. shall support changes and amendments to tracking dog regulations to encourage the
10. increased use of trained game-tracking dogs and skilled dog handlers whose dogs are
11. under control at all times and will not enter properties without permission; and,
12. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** If the tracking dog is off lead, a reliable means of tracking dog
13. control should be employed to assure property boundary compliance and must be registered
14. with the Michigan DNR as a tracker; and,
15. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** If the handler loses control of the tracking dog and it
16. enters an adjoining property without permission, the handler should adhere to current Michigan
17. game laws governing the legal means of recovering hunting dogs from private property; and,
18. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the MUCC shall support for tracking dogs and their
19. handlers to be: registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), possess a valid
20. Concealed pistol license, have passed a United Blood Trackers level 1 or greater test. If the dog
21. is off-lead, the dog and handler should successfully complete the new United Blood Trackers
22. off-lead test that was established in 2022.

PASSED
Resolution #7
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Bob Schulz, President, Metro West Steelheaders
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Pontoon Registration Fee/Renewal Fee

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) 324.80124 requires that watercraft vessels in the
2. State of Michigan be registered, and that registration will be renewed every three (3) years; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** MCL 324.80124 sets forth the fees to be paid for that registration, and registration
4. renewal fees for motorized watercraft vessels based solely on length; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** MCL 324.80124 sets a separate registration and renewal fee for all pontoon
6. watercraft vessels, regardless of vessel length; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** Pontoons can operate at the same capacities of other motorized watercraft
8. vessels; and,
9. **WHEREAS:** Pontoons are now being used for all water activities (tubing, water skiing, fishing)
10. including on the Great Lakes; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** Pontoon registration/renewal fee is \$23.00 regardless of length; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** Other motorized watercraft vessels fee is based solely on length and ranges from
13. \$14.00 to \$448.00; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** This is an unfair fee schedule to all other motorized watercraft vessels that have
15. the same capacities equal access to State of Michigan waters; and,
16. **WHEREAS:** It should be known that all other motorized watercraft vessels, such as ski boats,
17. bass boats, cabin cruisers, sail boats, etc., pay the same fee; and,
18. **WHEREAS:** It should be known that all registration/renewal fees for motorized watercraft
19. vessels are based solely on length and not vessel dollar worth; NOW,
20. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs shall seek to have MCL
21. 324.80124 be amended so that all motorized watercraft vessels pay the same
22. registration/renewal fees based on length.

WITHDRAWN
Proposed Resolution #8
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
Passed:
Title: Extension of Apprentice Hunting License Timeline

1. **WHEREAS:** The apprentice hunting license requires an apprentice hunter to be within arms
2. reach of a licensed parent or guardian, or a 21 year old licensed hunter approved by the parent
3. or guardian; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** The apprentice license is no cheaper than traditional hunting licenses; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Currently an apprentice hunter can only hunt on an apprentice license for two
6. years before they are required to take hunters safety to continue hunting; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** The purpose of hunters safety is to prepare an individual to hunt safely alone; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** There are anecdotal reports of large numbers of hunters safety instructors leaving
9. the program statewide; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** This has led to prospective students having a hard time finding a class they are
11. able to take, particularly in rural areas; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** The number of hunters nationwide is decreasing rapidly; and,
13. **WHEREAS:** We have a responsibility as conservationists to ensure the next generation
14. continues to have hunting opportunities; and,
15. **WHEREAS:** Some individuals may choose to hunt alone for a longer period of time, preferring
16. instead to hunt with significant others, friends, or other family members; NOW,
17. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Michigan United Conservation Clubs advocates for
18. allowing Michigan's hunters to hunt legally under an apprentice license for three years if they
19. take at least the online hunter safety education program in the first two years to provide a
20. provisional certificate until the hunter safety in-person field portion can be completed.

PASSED
Resolution #9
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Zach Snyder, Individual Member, Conservation Policy Board Member
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Retention of Bear Points

1. **WHEREAS:** There is no guarantee that leftover bear licenses will be available for any hunt or
2. unit; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** Traditionally, only western upper peninsula units have any leftover bear tags; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** Leftover licenses are currently sold on a first-come, first-served basis for a one
5. week period prior to the season for unsuccessful applicants, and any remaining licenses are
6. open to the general public one week after that; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** The quotas are set for a target harvest goal, and ensuring these tags are used by
8. active hunters would help achieve these biological goals; and,
9. **WHEREAS:** If a hunter wishes to purchase a leftover bear license, that hunter is forced to
10. relinquish any accrued bear preference points; NOW,
11. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support and
12. advocate through the Natural Resources Commission and Michigan DNR to allow for the
13. retention of a hunter's accrued preference points when purchasing a leftover bear license.

PASSED
Resolution #10
Requires $\frac{2}{3}$ Majority

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Past President
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: State Park 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 MNRTF board;
3. and,
4. **WHEREAS**, these projects are judged against criteria created to best benefit the public lands
5. and the natural resources from which wealth is extracted, for purposes of acquisition,
6. improvement, and 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
8. from public lands by benefiting the expansion and conservation of state holdings, and constitute
9. assets placed in a public trust; and,
10. **WHEREAS** the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund (SPEF) has no such governance by a
11. citizen board as constituted in the MNRTF; and,
12. **WHEREAS**, the use of public funds above and beyond the \$500 million cap for the MNRTF
13. constitute the funding of the SPEF, and by extension should be used for the same purpose, and
14. **WHEREAS** recent federal funds have been made available to the Department of Natural
15. Resources (DNR) to meet some of the state park deficiencies intended to be addressed by
16. SPEF, and yet the limit to which this fund can rise remains unchanged; NOW,
17. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs will discuss the
18. establishment of a similar governing body for the SPEF to make decisions as to the
19. disbursement of the fund for acquisition, improvement, and restoration (capital expenditures)
20. and not for operations (recognizing that any such project will have a certain % of labor cost and
21. staff time needed above and beyond the normal operating costs of the Division – a % to be
22. considered by the suggested board as that which is appropriate to the grant proposal).

PASSED
Resolution #11
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Ken Dalton, Individual Member
Passed: March 25, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Expansion of Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment

1. **WHEREAS:** the Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative (MPHI) and Michigan United
2. Conservation Clubs (MUCC) have worked closely to enact Public Act 262 of 2020; (MCL
3. 324.43525c); and,
4. **WHEREAS:** the goal of Public Act 262 is to recruit, retain, and reactive (R3) Michigan pheasant
5. hunters; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** to meet these goals, most pheasant hunters must now purchase a pheasant
7. license in order to pheasant hunt on public lands in Michigan; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** 100% of pheasant license proceeds fund the hiring of game breeders to release
9. rooster pheasants on public lands in Michigan; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** since the pheasant license inception, over a quarter of a million dollars have been
11. raised through pheasant license sales; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** the Department of Natural Resources selected nine state game areas (SGA) in
13. which roosters are released; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** participating SGA land managers report dramatic increase in hunter numbers since
15. enactment of PA 262; and,
16. **WHEREAS:** not all Michigan pheasant hunters are in close proximity to one of the nine state
17. game areas; and,
18. **WHEREAS:** Michigan boasts many public hunting lands with suitable hunting habitat in which
19. roosters could be released and hunted; and,
20. **WHEREAS:** Adding additional public hunting land as release sites would give many more
21. Michigan hunters an opportunity to hunt pheasants, resulting in higher pheasant license sales
22. and increasing the amount of revenue available to purchase rooster pheasants for release;
23. NOW,
24. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the
25. Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources
26. Commission to support the expansion of release sites available for public pheasant hunting
27. with the goal of getting more pheasant hunters into the field.

PASSED
Resolution #12
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, State Advisory Council President, NDA
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Green Solar Energy on Private Lands

1. **WHEREAS:** Increasingly, large scale solar energy production sites are in our future here in
2. Michigan; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** There is growing pressure to buy, or lease privately held forests and agricultural
4. property for large scale solar energy production sites; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Solar energy production sites are often biological deserts covered with frequently
6. mowed non-native grass of little value to wildlife, even essential pollinating insects; and, are
7. fenced off in a manner restricting natural wildlife movement over long distances; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** Where these solar energy production sites will be located, and how they are built
9. and maintained is of importance to all who use, live near and recreate on our Michigan's private
10. lands because these farms will eliminate wildlife habitat, displace wildlife, and reduce or
11. eliminate recreational use of those lands; and have major impacts on adjoining public and
12. private lands; and,
13. **WHEREAS:** It may not be a good carbon trade off to cut down a forest, bulldoze a prairie,
14. eliminate current CRP lands, or other wildlife habitat to build solar energy production sites; and,
15. **WHEREAS:** there are large paved areas, brownfield sites, large manufacturing, distribution and
16. government facilities and other areas of little or no current ecological value that could add solar
17. farms with little or no negative impact; and,
18. **WHEREAS:** With changes in zoning and design solar energy production sites could be truly
19. greener with reduced damage to existing wildlife habitat, less mowing, more native plants, more
20. wildlife habitat, reduced use of paving, fewer toxic materials, and minimal restriction of natural
21. wildlife movement; NOW,
22. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the State
23. of Michigan and affiliated agencies, Michigan State University, the Michigan Legislature, and
24. other stakeholder groups to develop and implement improved solar zoning, site
25. recommendations, recommend reclamation bond, land-owner education and legislation to
26. ensure that implement solar projects that are truly beneficial to Michigan's natural resources.

PASSED
Resolution #13
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Steve Dey & Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Natural Resources Commission Meeting Locations

1. **WHEREAS:** The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) is the link between citizens of Michigan
2. and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and,
3. **WHEREAS:** it is vitally important for the NRC to hear from citizens of Michigan about hunting,
4. fishing, trapping, and other vital natural resource issues that come before the NRC; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** The NRC has twelve meetings a year primarily held, in Lansing; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** To make it easier for citizens to attend NRC meeting to share their thoughts at
7. NRC meetings; NOW,
8. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs will work with the NRC
9. and DNR to have 3 meetings in the Upper Peninsula per year.

PASSED
Resolution #14
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Life Member
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Reaffirm MUCC's opposition to Camp Grayling expansion

1. **WHEREAS:** Camp Grayling was founded in 1913 on an initial grant of land from Grayling
2. lumber baron Rasmus Hanson to the state for military training. It includes 147,000 acres in
3. Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego counties. Troops first started training at Camp Grayling in 1914;
4. and,
5. **WHEREAS:** the Grayling area provides quality outdoor recreational experiences; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** expanded use of Camp Grayling in recent years has adversely affected and
7. impacted the natural environment of the Grayling area; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** past experiences demonstrates that a need exists to more closely monitor and
9. regulate the environmental impact Camp Grayling activities create; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** during 2016 and 2017 the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
11. (MDMVA) conducted a site investigation on the Grayling Army Airfield (GAAF) for the presence
12. of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the groundwater. It then determined that there
13. was an off-base human health concern; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** Sheri McWhirter of The Traverse City Record Eagle reports “State records show
15. more than 1,100 drinking water samples have been tested through spring this year. Of those,
16. nearly 300 tested positive for some level of PFAS contamination. Officials found 19 homes with
17. PFAS levels at or in beyond the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s health advisory
18. standard for lifetime exposure — 70 parts per trillion — 17 near the airfield and two near Lake
19. Margrethe. Hundreds more residential well samples returned levels between that concentration
20. and non-detection.” in an article from 2019;
21. (<https://www.record-eagle.com/users/profile/Sheri%20McWhirter>); and,
22. **WHEREAS:** Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, MI has caused a “Do Not Eat Deer
23. Advisory” and a “Do Not eat Fish Advisory” due to toxic PFAS contamination
24. ([https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/10/19/dnr-do-not-eat-deer-military-base/](https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/10/19/dnr-do-not-eat-deer-military-base/1695100002/)
25. [1695100002/](https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/10/19/dnr-do-not-eat-deer-military-base/1695100002/)); and,
26. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) relies on a grassroots policy process
27. to set the organization’s directives. Our members dictate the positions of the organization. In

28. 1989, MUCC members passed a resolution opposing the expansion of Camp Grayling except
29. during a national emergency, as declared by the President or Congress; and,
30. **WHEREAS:** The National Guard is asking for an expansion to lease an additional 162,000
31. acres of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands that is currently open to various forms
32. of public recreation including hunting, angling, and trapping. This would be in addition to the
33. 147,000 acres they are currently leasing; and,
34. **WHEREAS:** Public Act 47 of 2009 requires the DNR: “2(a) Keep land under its control open to
35. hunting unless the department determines that the land should be closed to hunting because of
36. public safety, fish or wildlife management, or homeland security concerns or as otherwise
37. required by law. 2(b) Manage land under its control to support and promote hunting and fishing
38. opportunities to the extent authorized by law.”; and,
39. **WHEREAS:** The biggest state revenue source for the DNR is the Game and Fish Protection
40. Fund. The primary source of revenue for the fund is hunting and fishing license fees; and,
41. **WHEREAS:** No money would be exchanged with the proposed lease, as it would be an
42. agreement between two State of Michigan departments. An estimated years long review
43. process incorporating MI DNR staff and resources is expected to just be incorporated
44. into the plan of work for staff in each office and division that has proposed expansion lands
45. within their respective boundaries. This on top of already short staff and underfunded; and,
46. **WHEREAS:** Camp Grayling has a track record of degrading our natural resources They
47. currently have three open PFAS/PFOA investigations on going: Lake Margrethe, Army Airfield
48. and MATES at Range 30*; and,
49. **WHEREAS:** it’s important to update and/or reaffirm MUCC’s position on historical issues as new
50. information, threats, and members change; NOW,
51. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs seeks Camp
52. Grayling’s full and total compliance with all federal, state and local environmental laws by the
53. Department of Military Affairs; and,
54. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC reaffirms its commitment to opposition to Camp
55. Grayling expansion per resolution BR011089 and opposes any further expansion; and,
56. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the DNR and National Guard to minimize
57. environmental impact and maximize recreational opportunity and any expansion that may take
58. place will not negatively impact DNR budget; and,
59. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that in those instances where public lands can no longer be
60. managed as an environmental resource for public recreation, the department be compensated
61. for by some mitigation acceptable to the Natural Resources Commission, legislature, or

62. appropriate public entity.

63. *<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/crawford-county/camp-grayling-lake-margrethe>

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/crawford-county/grayling-army-airfield>

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/crawford-county/camp-grayling-mates>

PASSED
Resolution #15
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Steven Lomonaco, Region 5
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Recreational Vehicle Education

1. **WHEREAS:** Society is becoming more fast-paced and the time available for parents/guardians
2. and children to participate in weekend educational experiences is limited; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** the consolidation of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sponsored
4. safety programs would encourage increased participation; NOW,
5. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the
6. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resource Commission and
7. instructors to study the feasibility of combining the snowmobile and off-road vehicle (ORV)
8. education programs; and,
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the consolidation includes the combining of instructional
10. material, the certificate, and the final exam; and,
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that if the feasibility study supports consolidation action be taken
12. to combine the programs.
13. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the DNR recreational safety staff work with current ORV
14. and snowmobile instructors to come up with a blueprint of what the new books should look like
15. and what should be on the test.

PASSED
Resolution #16
Requires $\frac{2}{3}$ Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller, Vice President & Leonard Shaner, Executive Board
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Mandatory Deer Harvest Reporting Requirements

1. **WHEREAS:** Understanding that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) need
2. correct and complete harvest data to effectively manage the deer herd of Michigan to ensure a
3. healthy deer herd in the state; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** The MDNR and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has implemented
5. mandatory deer reporting through an online system or cell phone app in Wildlife Conservation
6. Order #4 of 2022; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** It is advertised as the first year being focused on education with an effort of
8. issuing citations to be at a minimum; and,
9. **WHEREAS:** Public Act 451 of 1994 commonly referred to as NREPA calls for a criminal
10. misdemeanor penalty for those in non-compliance with an NRC order; and,
11. **WHEREAS:** This reporting process calls for the hunter to identify the location of the successful
12. hunt in a very specific manner; and,
13. **WHEREAS:** This order calls for harvest reporting to be complete within 72 hours of harvest;
14. NOW,
15. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Following this year of education, a violation be dropped from
16. a misdemeanor crime to a civil infraction; and,
17. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The requirement of sharing your location be changed from exact
18. property to listing the county, town range and section where the successful hunt took place; and,
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The time allowed for reporting be changed to 72 hours after
20. the harvest, or 24 hours after returning home from a remote camp with inadequate access to
21. service. Michigan United Conservation Clubs to work with the MDNR, the NRC and/or the
22. Michigan Legislature to support the above changes to this new harvest reporting requirement.

PASSED
Resolution #17
Requires 2/3rd Majority

Submitted by: Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Add Cormorant Control to the DNR Budget and Implement Cormorant Control

1. **WHEREAS:** as of 2021, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized the State of
2. Michigan the authority to control cormorant populations by allowing a take of 11,050 cormorants
3. on a depredation permit; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** the lack of funding and manpower has the state of Michigan applying for less than
5. one-half of our authorized amount of cormorants on the depredation permit. As a result, last
6. year (2022), only 2800 birds were dispatched, roughly 25% of our permit allowance, which
7. allows the cormorant numbers to keep increasing; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** a recent 2022 Cormorant Consumption Study by Michigan State University shows
9. a significant impact cormorants have on free-swimming fish; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** uncontrolled cormorant numbers in the early 2000s depleted the perch population
11. in what was known as a premier perch fishing destination, the Les Cheneaux Islands; the
12. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) perch creel surveys went to zero at that time. But with
13. control, it has since recovered somewhat; and.
14. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has over 1.1 Million anglers that spend over 2.3 billion dollars annually,
15. with over 45,103 jobs created by anglers; and,
16. **WHEREAS:** The Michigan DNR spends millions of dollars stocking gamefish in Michigan
17. Lakes. Just last fall, they stocked 7.8 tons of gamefish; and,
18. **WHEREAS:** we have more than 12,000 nesting pairs of cormorants in Michigan and
19. approximately 2640 single immature/Juvenile birds; and,
20. **WHEREAS:** one breeding pair of cormorants and their resulting fledglings for one breeding
21. season will consume 670 pounds of fish biomass. 2640 juvenile birds will consume an additional
22. 464,820 pounds of fish biomass, resulting in a total loss of over 8,504,820 pounds of fish
23. biomass or 4,252 tons of fish; NOW,
24. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the Michigan DNR to find the annual
25. funding, a minimum of \$250,000.00, and re-implement the very successful United States
26. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program of cormorant control utilizing volunteers.