



## DRAFT AGENDA

### Michigan United Conservation Clubs Conservation Policy Board Meeting

Alpena Sportsmen's Club, Alpena

Saturday, August 26, 2023

Contact Vice President Rob Miller at [rob@rmillerelectric.com](mailto:rob@rmillerelectric.com) or  
Policy Assistant Justin Tomei at [jtomei@mucc.org](mailto:jtomei@mucc.org) for questions

**Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its air, soil, and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.**

MUCC Mission Statement: Uniting citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Committee Meetings-</b></p> <p>Education (Dawn Levey), Fisheries (Eric Braden), Wildlife (Leonard Shaner), Parks, Recreation and Trails (Allen Kasdorf), Shooting/Ranges (Jack Ammerman)</p>
11:00 a.m.  Or when Committee meetings end.	<p>Conservation Policy Board</p> <p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Role of Conservation Policy Board</p> <p><i>President Muir</i></p>
11:10 a.m.	<p>The Pledges (Allegiance &amp; Conservation)</p> <p><i>President Muir</i></p>
11:12 a.m.	<p>Introduction of Executive Board, Past Presidents, Staff and Special Guests</p> <p><i>President Muir</i></p>
11:15 a.m.	<p>Introduction of Voting Conservation Policy Board Members, MUCC Members, and Visitors in Attendance</p> <p><i>President Muir</i></p>
11:20 a.m.	<p>Vacancies Filled on the Conservation Policy Board</p> <p>-Region 3 Club position open</p> <p><i>Vice President Rob Miller</i></p>
11:22 a.m.	<p><b>Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p><b>Discussion of Minutes:</b> June 3, 202 Meeting</p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes:</b> June 3, 2023 Meeting</p> <p><i>All</i></p>
11:25 a.m.	<p>Speaker</p> <p><i>Q&amp;A Proposed Consent Decree</i></p> <p><i>Frank Krist &amp; Jim Johnson CPMR</i></p>
11:45 p.m.	<p>Emerging Issues, Issues MUCC Lacks Policy On</p> <p><i>MUCC Staff</i></p>
11:55 a.m.	<p>Questions and Answers</p>
12:05 – 12:35 p.m.	<p><b>BREAK-Lunch Available</b></p>

12:35 p.m.	Policy Committee Reports
12:45 p.m.	<p><b><u>Emergency and Proposed Resolution Discussion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Resolution Read by maker or their designee</li> <li>· Resolution explained by maker or their designee (5-minute time limit)</li> <li>· Without objection, this resolution is consistent with the mission and purpose of MUCC.</li> <li>· Committee input</li> <li>· Discussion on the resolution (2-minute time limit with 2 opportunities to speak on an issue/person)</li> <li>· Motion for disposition of the resolution</li> <li>· Discussion of the motion</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proposed Policy Resolutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proposed Resolution #A Support Mandatory Antler Point Restrictions</li> <li>● Proposed Resolution #B Elimination of Hunters Choice in the UP</li> <li>● Proposed Resolution #C Consistency in Au Sable River Trout Stream Classification</li> <li>● Proposed Resolution #D Recommend Michigan DNR to allow transfer of “remaining” points to those who qualify</li> <li>● Proposed Resolution #E Opposing Mandatory Antler Point Restrictions</li> <li>● Proposed Resolution #F Michigan Moose Hunt</li> </ul> <p><i>President Muir</i></p> <p><u>Motions that are in order:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pass resolution as is on to 2024 Convention</li> <li>2. Amend and Pass to Convention</li> <li>3. Postpone action and refer back to writer (or MUCC Committee) with Comments</li> <li>4. Discard as inconsistent with MUCC mission</li> </ol>
1:45 p.m. (Or when proposed resolutions are finished)	<p>Policy updates from MUCC</p> <p><i>MUCC Staff</i></p>
2:05 p.m.	<p>Executive Board Report</p> <p><i>Amy Trotter</i></p>
2:25 p.m.	<p>Moment for the Mission</p> <p><i>Amy Trotter</i></p>
2:30 p.m.	<p>Announcement of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· December 2 CPB Meeting, Region 8.</li> </ul> <p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>President Muir</i></p>

**PASSED**  
**Proposed Resolution #A**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Todd Johnson Region 4 CPB, Luke Sitton Life Member  
**Proposed:** August 26, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Supporting Mandatory Antler Point Restrictions

1. **WHEREAS:** The majority of hunters across all of Michigan's deer management units have
2. supported antler point restrictions (APRs) in every survey over the past 15 years (surveys
3. conducted by the MDNR), and;
4. **WHEREAS:** 77% of hunters in the NW 12 APR counties STILL approve APR's 4 years after
5. implementation, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** The minimum antlerless to antlered harvest ratio in most of the whitetail deer's
7. range to maintain deer densities is one antlerless per antlered deer (1 to 1), and;
8. **WHEREAS:** MDNR harvest data shows that under current regulations in 2022 Michigan hunters
9. only harvested .76 antlerless per antlered deer leading to out-of-control deer densities and
10. increased disease risk, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** MDNR data presented at the May 2023 Natural Resources Commission showed
12. that the NW 12 APR counties are leading the state in antlerless to antlered harvest ratio with the
13. #1 county (Lake 1.38 to 1), 5 of the top 8 counties, and an average for the entire NW 12 APR
14. area of .98 antlerless to antlered ratio versus the statewide average of .76, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** MDNR Data from the CWD experiment shows that the APR counties increased
16. antlerless harvest more than the non-APR counties, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** two and three-year-old bucks are able to express 25% to 75% of their antler growth
18. potential, while one-year-olds only average 15% to 25%, NOW;
19. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC will support the adoption of antler point
20. regulations that are designed to protect the majority of yearling bucks, while also making a
21. majority of 2.5-year-old bucks eligible for harvest.

**REFERRED BACK TO WRITER**  
**Proposed Resolution #B**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Richard P. Smith, Life Member  
**Proposed:** August 26, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Elimination of Hunters Choice in the UP

1. **WHEREAS:** the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommended the elimination of
2. hunter's choice regulations in the Upper Peninsula in Wildlife Conservation Order #8 of 2020
3. stating, "Department staff have reviewed this regulation and determined that this regulation has
4. not achieved a biological benefit and has had very little impact on shifting the age structure of
5. bucks in the UP., and;
6. **WHEREAS:** the DNR recommended making one buck tag unrestricted on UP combination deer
7. licenses like it was prior to 2008 in Wildlife Conservation Order #8 of 2020, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) rejected the DNR recommendation to
9. eliminate hunter's choice regulations in the UP without providing any biological justification for
10. doing so to counter DNR data even though the passage of Proposal G by the majority of
11. Michigan voters require the NRC to use the best available science when making decisions, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** allowing all UP deer hunters the opportunity to shoot antlered bucks will improve
13. UP deer management and hunter satisfaction, and;
14. **WHEREAS:** hunter's choice regulations protect some bucks from hunters that end up dying
15. during severe winters, and;
16. **WHEREAS:** hunter's choice regulations not only protect the majority of yearling bucks, they
17. protect 15% of antlered bucks that are 2 ½ years old and about 10% of the bucks that are 5 ½
18. years old, based on 10 years of data from DNR check stations, and;
19. **WHEREAS:** DNR check station data shows that 5% of UP bucks that are 5 ½ years old only
20. have 2 antler points and another 5% of the bucks in that age class only have 3 or 4 points, and;
21. **WHEREAS:** regulations that protect bucks that are as old as 5 ½ from hunters represent terrible
22. management, and;
23. **WHEREAS:** hunter's choice regulations result in trying to carry too many deer through severe
24. winters and those surplus deer do serious damage to winter habitat before they die, reducing
25. the future carrying capacity of UP winter habitat, and;
26. **WHEREAS:** hunter's choice regulations increase the spread of CWD in the UP because they
27. are a form of MAPR since both buck tags on UP combination licenses have antler point

28. restrictions, and;

29. **WHEREAS:** the only deer confirmed to have CWD from the UP came from deer management

30. unit (DMU) 122 where mandatory antler point restrictions (MAPR) were in place, and;

31. **WHEREAS:** the CWD positive deer from the UP was a 4-year-old doe that may have spread the

32. disease to her fawns, and that doe may have come from Wisconsin, and;

33. **WHEREAS:** CWD-infected deer have spread from southern Wisconsin near Madison to the

34. the northern part of the state near the UP border, and the disease is sure to continue spreading

35. to the north into the UP, and;

36. **WHEREAS:** yearling bucks infected with CWD are most likely to add to the spread of the

37. disease to the UP, and;

38. **WHEREAS:** protecting yearling bucks through MAPR will contribute to the increase of CWD in

39. the UP, and;

40. **WHEREAS:** even though only one deer infected with CWD has been detected in the UP, the

41. DNR estimates that more deer in the region may have the disease, but have not been detected

42. due to the low rate of testing, and;

43. **WHEREAS:** when CWD does spread to the UP from Wisconsin, bans on baiting and winter

44. feeding of deer most likely will go into effect, and;

45. **WHEREAS:** a ban on winter feeding of deer in the UP will most likely result in the loss of far

46. more deer due to starvation than CWD is likely to kill, so avoiding a ban on winter deer feeding

47. is desirable, and;

48. **WHEREAS:** deer hunter numbers in the UP have steadily declined since 2008 and due to the

49. significant decline in hunter numbers, hunter's choice regulations are not necessary to protect

50. yearling bucks to insure the future presence of older age bucks, and;

51. **WHEREAS:** making one buck tag on UP combination deer licenses unrestricted is more

52. accurately hunter's choice by allowing each hunter to decide for themselves which bucks to

53. shoot, and;

54. **WHEREAS:** having one buck tag on UP combination deer licenses unrestricted will still allow

55. hunters who choose to, to pass up bucks with less than 3 points on one antler at the same time

56. hunters who are happy to shoot a buck with small antlers would also have the opportunity to do

57. so, and;

58. **WHEREAS:** the average UP buck hunting success when one buck tag was unrestricted on UP

59. combination deer licenses was 35% compared to 29% since both buck tags on UP combo

60. licenses have been restricted, and;

61. **WHEREAS:** UP deer hunters who are able to shoot a legal buck are satisfied hunters, and;

62. **WHEREAS:** besides not having any biological benefits, hunter's choice regulations encourage  
63. UP deer hunters to buy single deer licenses, reducing revenue for the DNR, and;  
64. **WHEREAS:** making one buck tag on UP combination deer licenses unrestricted will encourage  
65. more UP hunters to buy combination deer licenses, increasing revenue for the DNR, NOW;  
66. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC supports making one buck tag on Upper  
67. Peninsula combination deer licenses unrestricted, eliminating the so-called hunter's choice  
68. Regulations that have been in effect since 2008 because they do not provide any biological  
69. benefits, reduce hunter success and satisfaction and reduce DNR revenue through deer license  
70. sales.

**REFERRED BACK TO WRITER**

**Proposed Resolution #C**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Patrick Murphy, Individual Member  
**Proposed:** August 26, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Consistency in Au Sable River Trout Fishing Seasons

1. **WHEREAS:** Downstream of the headwaters of major trout streams in central and northern
2. Michigan including the Pere Marquette, Muskegon, and Manistee Rivers are regulated as Type
3. 3 or Type 4 Trout Streams and/or have Special Gear Restrictions, making them open for fishing
4. opportunities year-round, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** All portions of the Au Sable River system downstream of their headwaters,
6. including the North Branch, South Branch, and Au Sable mainstream above Evans Road
7. (McKinley Bridge) are regulated as Type 4 or special gear restriction streams, making them
8. open for fishing opportunities year-round, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** The Au Sable mainstream from Mio Dam to Alcona Pond is an approximately 24-
10. mile uninterrupted, continuous stretch of river, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** The Au Sable River below Alcona Pond extending into Iosco County is classified
12. as a Type 4 Trout Stream, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** The final portion of this uninterrupted, continuous stretch of the Au Sable
14. mainstream from Evans Road (McKinley Bridge) to 4001 Bridge is regulated as a Type 2 Trout
15. Stream in which fishing is closed from October 1 until the last Saturday in April, NOW;
16. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Club shall work with the NRC
17. to change the classification and/or fishing regulations of the stretch of the Au Sable River from
18. Evans Road (McKinley Bridge) to 4001 Bridge to provide year-round trout angling opportunities
19. consistent with the remainder of the Au Sable river system above Alcona Pond.

**PASSED**  
**Proposed Resolution #D**  
**Requires Simple Majority**

**Submitted by:** Zach Snyder, Region 8 CPB  
**Proposed:** August 26, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Recommend Michigan DNR to allow transfer of “remaining” points to those who qualify

1. **WHEREAS:** currently, applicants who are selected in the bear drawings may transfer their
2. successfully drawn tag success to an eligible person they know, or to an individual on
3. the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hunt waiting list, and;
4. **WHEREAS:** currently an eligible person is described as a hunter under the age of 16 who
5. applied and was not drawn for a bear license, or any person who has been diagnosed with an
6. advanced illness, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** In 2023 140 people were on the DNR wait list, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** of the 140 on the waitlist only 21 were donated a license, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** currently, upon purchasing a leftover bear tag, or successfully drawing a bear
10. license , bear preference points are reset to zero, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** many applicants possess an excess amount of points necessary to draw their
12. desired tag, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** for example, a hunter may have 18 points, but choose to hunt a unit that only
14. requires 8 points to draw their tag, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** under the current design, those points are reset to zero, rather than a potential
16. remaining points balance, 10 being the remainder from the example given, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** those remaining points could be transferred, or donated to an eligible person,
18. allowing more youth and those with advanced illness more opportunity to receive a tag, NOW;
19. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR to allow any points
20. beyond what is necessary for an applicant to draw their tag to be transferable to those eligible
21. within the already established guidelines of the DNR hunt transfer program.



**REFERRED BACK TO WRITER**

**Proposed Resolution #E**

**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Richard P. Smith, Life Member  
**Proposed:** August 26 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Opposing Statewide Mandatory Antler Point Restrictions

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan Natural Resources Commissioner John Walters made an amendment to
2. Wildlife Conservation Order #7 of 2023 at the Natural Resources Commission's May meeting to
3. impose statewide mandatory antler point restrictions (MAPR) limiting Michigan hunters to
4. shooting bucks with at least 4 points on one antler, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** MAPR are not necessary to properly manage Michigan's deer herd due to the
6. steady decline of deer hunter numbers in the state and DNR data that is currently available
7. shows that MAPR regulations increase the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) among
8. deer, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** since some bucks in the northern two-thirds of the state don't develop a minimum
10. of 4 points on one antler until they are at least 3 years old, a MAPR would protect a significant
11. number of 2-year-old bucks as well as most yearling bucks, increasing the threat of spreading
12. CWD across the state, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** a MAPR experiment was conducted in southern Michigan's CWD Management
14. Zone during 2019 through 2021 deer hunting seasons in an effort to determine if MAPR would
15. reduce deer abundance, and;
16. **WHEREAS:** results of that experiment, as reported at the May Natural Resources Commission
17. meeting, show that MAPR did not reduce deer abundance;
18. **WHEREAS:** results of the 3-year MAPR experiment show that deer abundance increased by
19. the end of the experiment, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** Montcalm County, which has the highest prevalence rate of CWD in the state, was
21. part of the 3-year MAPR experiment and the apparent prevalence rate of the disease in that
22. county went from 2% in 2019 to 13.5% in 2022 during the course of that study, and;
23. **WHEREAS:** one of the reasons that MAPR regulations increase the spread of CWD is they
24. protect the majority of yearling (1.5-year-old) bucks, some of which are infected with CWD, and;
25. **WHEREAS:** 22 of the CWD-positive deer from Montcalm County during the years 2017 and
26. 2018 were yearling bucks, making up 37% of the infected deer tested from the county those
27. years, but only made up 27% of the total number of whitetails tested from the county, and;

28. **WHEREAS:** additional infected yearling bucks were tested from Montcalm County between  
29. 2019 and 2022, and;

30. **WHEREAS:** a button buck (.5 years old) from Montcalm County tested positive for CWD during  
31. 2019 and 2 doe fawns from Jackson County were confirmed to have CWD in 2020, and;

32. **WHEREAS:** an examination of the DNA from CWD-positive deer from Ingham and Clinton  
33. Counties has confirmed that does infected with CWD spread the disease to their fawns,  
34. resulting in an increasing number of yearling bucks and does with CWD, and;

35. **WHEREAS:** MAPR also protects older bucks with legal antlers on which hunters are unable to  
36. count points, further increasing the potential for spread of the disease since older bucks have  
37. the highest prevalence rate of CWD, and;

38. **WHEREAS:** the best way to reduce the spread of CWD is to allow hunters to shoot as many  
39. deer as possible of both sexes and all age classes by eliminating MAPR from all deer licenses  
40. in CWD Management Areas, and;

41. **WHEREAS:** elimination of MAPR requirements, even on combination deer licenses, were  
42. successfully used to reduce CWD prevalence among deer in Ingham and Clinton Counties, and;

43. **WHEREAS:** as further evidence of the danger MAPR poses for the spread of CWD, a map DNR  
44. deer specialist Chad Stewart shared at the May NRC meeting showed the estimated potential  
45. undetected levels of CWD over the entire Lower Peninsula and counties with the highest  
46. estimated CWD prevalence rates were those with MAPR in the northwest portion of that  
47. peninsula, and;

48. **WHEREAS:** a survey of deer hunters conducted by the DNR in 2015 determined that MAPR  
49. regulations do not increase hunter satisfaction, also as reported at the May NRC meeting,  
50. NOW;

51. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC will adopt a policy in opposition to statewide  
52. implementation of MAPR.

**PASSED**  
**Proposed Resolution #F**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** George Lindquist, Executive Board  
**Proposed:** August 26 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Michigan Moose Hunt

1. **WHEREAS:** the **Western** UP moose of today are primarily descendants of animals brought in from
2. Canada in 1985 and 1987. Thanks to the efforts of the DNR and money from private groups,
3. primarily Safari Club International, along with other conservation organizations, including
4. MUCC, we now have a stable, sustainable population of moose in the UP, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** it is inevitable that moose within the population will die every year. Older animals
6. are more susceptible, especially bull moose. Having special hunts would bring awareness and
7. monies towards better management and growth of the UP moose population, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** with the UP moose population stable and increasing, a limited hunt will not affect
9. the existing herd and will draw attention to the moose herd of the UP, and;
10. **WHEREAS:** the monies gained by a moose hunt can and should be earmarked for UP moose
11. research, habitat work, and development of a long-term management plan to ensure the viability
12. of this iconic species, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** only Michigan residents can apply for the drawing of the moose lottery and such
14. tags would be a “once in a lifetime” tag, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** the hunts would be overseen by DNR personnel to assure that the animals
16. harvested will not harm the existing moose population. IE, the harvest of only older bulls, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** these drawings should be conducted as a lottery, much like our current elk hunts,
18. where every sportsman of the State of Michigan has an opportunity to draw one of these
19. coveted tags, NOW;
20. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the Michigan DNR, Natural Resources
21. Commission, and Legislature to conduct a very limited **bull** moose hunt in the UP of Michigan
22. ~~with **ff**~~
23. ~~up to 5 possible bull moose tags. Possibly using the Pure Michigan Hunt, and a separate lottery,~~
24. much like the current elk lottery, with monies derived going to sustaining and growing this iconic species in Michigan.