

DRAFT AGENDA



Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Conservation Policy Board Meeting

Jay's Webber Wildlife Education Center

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Contact Vice President Steve Dey at sprig3988@gmail.com or

Policy & Government Affairs Manager Justin Tomei at 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.	Committee Meetings- Education (Dawn Levey), Fisheries (Rick Okerjhelm), Wildlife (Leonard Shaner), Parks, Recreation and Trails (VACANT), Shooting/Ranges (Jack Ammerman)
11:00 a.m. Or when Committee meetings end.	Conservation Policy Board Welcome and Opening Remarks Role of Conservation Policy Board <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i>
11:10 a.m.	The Pledges (Allegiance & Conservation) <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i>
11:12 a.m.	Introduction of Executive Board, Past Presidents, Staff and Special Guests <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i>
11:15 a.m.	Introduction of Voting Conservation Policy Board Members, MUCC Members, and Visitors in Attendance <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i>
11:20 a.m.	Vacancies Filled on the Conservation Policy Board <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i>

11:22 a.m.	<p>Approval of Agenda Discussion of Minutes: June 1, 2024 Meeting Approval of Minutes: June 1, 2024 Meeting <i>All</i></p>
11:28 a.m.	<p>Speaker: Tyler Mehig, MUCC Director of Marketing and Communications</p> <p>Intro & MUCC Marketing Strategy</p>
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	<p>BREAK-Lunch Available</p>
12:35 p.m.	<p>Policy Committee Reports</p>
12:45 p.m.	<p><u>Emergency and Proposed Resolution Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Resolution Read by maker or their designee · Resolution explained by maker or their designee (5-minute time limit) · Without objection, this resolution is consistent with the mission and purpose of MUCC. · Committee input · Discussion on the resolution (2-minute time limit with 2 opportunities to speak on an issue/person) · Motion for disposition of the resolution · Discussion of the motion <p><u>Proposed Policy Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Resolution #A: Deer Hunting Equipment - Limited Firearm Zone • Proposed Resolution #B: Opposition to Market Hunting for Game Management • Proposed Resolution #C: Support Conservation over Preservation • Proposed Resolution #D: Expand Underwater Spearfishing Opportunities • Proposed Resolution #E: Bear treestands at legal bait sites prior to Sept 1 • Proposed Resolution #F: Support for eliminating the whitetail bait ban that was established in 2019 for the entire state of Michigan <p><i>Vice President Steve Dey</i></p> <p><u>Motions that are in order:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pass resolution as is on to 2025 Convention 2. Amend and Pass to Convention 3. Postpone action and refer back to writer (or MUCC Committee) with Comments 4. Discard as inconsistent with MUCC mission
1:45 p.m. (Or when proposed resolutions are finished)	<p>Policy Update</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"> · December 7, 2024, Rockford Sportsmen's Club Rockford, MI <p><i>Adjourn Vice President Steve Dey</i></p>

REFERRED BACK TO WRITER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Resolution #A
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Craig Larson, Dowagiac Conservation Club MUCC Region: 7

Proposed: August 17, 2024 CPB Meeting

Title: Deer Hunting Equipment - Limited Firearm Zone

1. **WHEREAS:** under current Michigan regulations (pages 49 - 50 of the 2023 Michigan
2. Hunting Digest), a legal firearm for deer hunting in the Limited Firearm Zone is defined
3. as .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight walled cartridges with a minimum case
4. length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.8 inches, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** many hunters, have straight wall cartridges of greater than 1.8 inches,
6. particularly of historic nature, the change to all straight-walled cartridge calibers from a
7. maximum of 1.8" case length to a maximum of 2.2" maximum case length would benefit
8. many hunters, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** the minor change from 1.8" to 2.2" eliminates any concerns for the longer
10. length straight wall cartridges and still allows the most common straight wall cartridges
11. that have been requested on a routine basis, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** The minor change in length also minimizes concerns over the potential for
13. new cartridge development, and;
14. **WHEREAS:** The 2.2" maximum case length also provides the CO's similar enforcement
15. of maximum case length they are accustomed to currently, and;
16. **WHEREAS:** this proposed rule change to allow the maximum case length to be
17. extended to 2.2" will allow for the use of many of traditional deer hunting cartridges
18. commonly owned in Michigan for the Limited Firearms Deer Zone and will be beneficial
19. to the State of Michigan without increased risks to the public or the hunting community,
20. NOW;
21. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the Natural Resources
22. Commission or the Michigan Legislature as necessary to change the regulation to allow
23. deer hunters to use straight wall cartridges .35 caliber or larger with maximum case
24. length of 2.2" in the Limited Firearms Zone.

PASSED TO CONVENTION
Proposed Resolution #B
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan State Council of the National Deer Association

Proposed: August 17th Conservation Policy Board Meeting

Title: Opposition to Market Hunting of Game Animals

1. **WHEREAS:** the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has supported the North
2. American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAMWC) 's pillars since its inception, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** As articulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, seven features make the
4. North American model distinct, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** *Wildlife is a public resource and held in public trust.* In the United States,
6. wildlife is considered a public resource, independent of the land or water where wildlife
7. may live. Government at various levels have a role in managing that resource on behalf
8. of all citizens and to ensure the long-term sustainability of wildlife populations, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** *Markets for game have been eliminated.* Government actions making it
10. illegal to buy and sell meat and parts of game and non-game species have removed a
11. huge threat to the survival of those species. A market in furbearers continues as a highly
12. regulated activity, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** *Allocation of wildlife by law.* Wildlife is a public resource managed by the
14. government. As a result, access to wildlife for hunting is through legal mechanisms such
15. as hunting seasons, bag limits, license requirements, etc, and;
16. **WHEREAS:** *Wildlife can only be killed for a legitimate purpose.* Wildlife is a shared
17. resource that must not be wasted. The law prohibits killing wildlife for frivolous reasons,
18. and;

19. **WHEREAS:** *Wildlife species are considered an international resource.* Some species,
20. such as migratory birds, cross national boundaries. Treaties such as the Migratory Bird
21. Treaty and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) recognize a
22. shared responsibility to manage these species across national boundaries, and;
23. **WHEREAS:** *Science is the proper tool for discharge of wildlife policy.* To manage wildlife
24. as a shared resource fairly, objectively, and knowledgeably, decisions must be based on
25. sound science such as annual waterfowl population surveys and the work of professional
26. wildlife biologists, and;
27. **WHEREAS:** *The democracy of hunting and fishing.* In keeping with democratic
28. principles, government allocates access to wildlife without regard for wealth, prestige, or
29. land ownership, and;
30. **WHEREAS:** The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is credited with
31. restoring many of North America's wildlife species that had been at or near the brink of
32. extinction due to market hunting, including whitetail deer, black bears, elk, Canada
33. Geese, wild Turkeys and many more, NOW;
34. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC supports the seven pillars of the North
35. American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and;
36. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** MUCC opposes any market hunting for management
37. purposes.

PASSED TO CONVENTION

Proposed Resolution #C
Requires Simple Majority

Sponsored by: Patrick Hogan, Life Member
Proposed: August 17, 2024 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Support Conservation Over Preservation Whenever Possible

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs is the largest statewide
2. conservation organization in the nation. Founded in 1937, our mission is to unite citizens to
3. conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage. This
4. mission drives everything we do as an organization; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** some nonprofit organizations will twist the words conservation and preservation to
6. fit their narrative. It's important we do not fall for these twisted semantics. Conservation can
7. quickly become an anti-hunting term when used improperly; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** Aldo Leopold once said "To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of
9. intelligent tinkering." Humans are cogs in the natural machine. Preservation often implies or
10. directly eliminates the human element in nature and the wise use of natural resources, NOW;
11. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC recognizes *conservation* as the wise use of natural
12. resources today, while ensuring the resource can be wisely used into the future, and,
13. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** MUCC recognizes *preservation* as seeking to prevent nature
14. from use; and
15. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** MUCC recognizes the importance of the human element within
16. nature and everything that comes with it. MUCC will support conservation over preservation
17. whenever possible.

PASSED TO CONVENTION WITH AMENDMENT

Proposed Resolution #D
Requires ⅔ Majority

Sponsored by: Jonathan Durtka, Individual Member, Patrick Hogan, Life Member
Proposed: August 17, 2024 Policy Board Meeting
Title: Expand Underwater Spearfishing Opportunities

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is the largest statewide conservation
2. organization in the nation. Founded in 1937, our mission is to unite citizens to conserve, protect
3. and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage. This mission drives everything
4. we do as an organization, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** MUCC has already adopted Policy Resolution AC100601 which supports
6. clear definitions of waters open to spear and bow fishing along with additional opportunities
7. and improved access to them, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** Underwater Spearfishing is an ecological, selective and sustainable method of
9. harvest, and;
10. **WHEREAS:** Michigan enjoys the largest bodies of freshwater (Great Lakes) in America
11. with ample space for Underwater Spearfishing to take place without conflicting with other
12. angling methods. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) confirmed there
13. were *zero* reported conflicts between spear anglers and rod and reel anglers on an April 3,
14. 2024, fisheries meeting, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Multiple non-coastal inland states such as Wisconsin, North Dakota, South
16. Dakota, Utah, Arkansas, Wyoming, New Mexico and others with comparatively fractional water
17. acreage to land mass have equal opportunity for underwater spearfishing anglers and hook
18. and line anglers regarding table-worthy game fish availability, and;
19. **WHEREAS:** The seasons, size and possession limits for all species are to be adhered to by all
20. anglers and angling methods to mean that the harvest of fish utilizing underwater spearfishing
21. equipment shall not harm the resource, and;
22. **WHEREAS:** MDNR fishery biologist have stated emphatically there is no biological impact to
23. the fishery, and;
24. **WHEREAS:** current regulations require underwater spear anglers to be fully submerged when
25. attempting to harvest fish, the seasonal conditions limit access to the water based on
26. temperature and visibility, artificial breathing devices such as scuba and rebreathers are
27. Prohibited, and;
28. **WHEREAS:** MUCC supports expanding seasons and/or methods of take when sound science

29. supports such an opportunity, and;

30. **WHEREAS:** Any opposition to expansion of this method of take (underwater spearfishing) is

31. purely based on unsubstantiated perceived social pressure which will not stand within this

32. organization, and;

~~33. **WHEREAS:** Any opposition to this resolution would make you complicit and supportive of the~~

~~34. NRC limiting the coyote season without any sound scientific support and relying on only~~

~~35. unsubstantiated perceived social and political pressure, and;~~

36. **WHEREAS:** Again, there is *no biological impact on the fishery*, and there have been zero

37. reported conflict between various angling methods, NOW;

38. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** ~~Because~~ *As long as* it is supported by sound science

39. provided by our MDNR fishery biologists that MUCC adopt the policy to create fair access to

40. Michigan's aquatic resources and support the expansion of underwater spearfishing

41. opportunities for ~~table-worthy~~ *gamefish species* to *coincide with current species-specific*

42. *regulations* and include waters ~~and species enjoyed by hook and line anglers throughout the~~

43. ~~state so long as there is no scientifically proven negative impact on the fishery.~~ *in the Great*

44. *Lakes and Great Lakes connecting waters, as defined by Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, St.*

45. *Mary's River, Detroit River, and to exclude designated trout lakes, designated trout streams,*

and

46. *tribal treaty waters.*

PASSED TO CONVENTION

Proposed Resolution #E
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Zach Snyder, Individual Member

Proposed: August 17, 2024 CPB Meeting

Title: Bear treestands at legal bait sites prior to Sept 1

1. **WHEREAS:** Currently, it is unlawful to place tree stands on public land prior to September
2. 1st, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** Baiting for bear is lawful beginning 31 days prior to the start of bear season,
4. and;
5. **WHEREAS:** Being obligated to wait until September 1st, or over two weeks after baiting
6. has begun to place one's tree stand on public land would cause undo intrusion, and
7. potentially pattern changing activity into one's bait site, NOW;
8. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC work with the proper parties to give bear hunters
9. the ability to place their tree stand on public land at actively tended legal bait sites, and
10. ONLY at actively tended legal bait sites, beginning the day baiting becomes legal.

DISCARDED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION

Proposed Resolution #F
Requires 2/3 Majority

Sponsored by: Kyle Green, Host of The Green Way Outdoors, Individual Member
Proposed: August 17, 2024 Policy Board Meeting
Title: Support for eliminating the whitetail bait ban that was established in 2019 for the entire Lower Peninsula of Michigan

1. **WHEREAS:** Deer harvest numbers are down in all but 6 counties in 2023 compared to 2022,
2. with an overall decline in harvest of over 9% for the State, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** There were 58,984 deer-involved crashes in Michigan in 2022, Michigan State
4. Police data compiled by the Insurance Alliance of Michigan (IAM) shows. That's an increase of
5. 13% from 2021, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** The deer herd rapidly growing at this rate will be the leading cause of disease
7. spread in Michigan whitetail deer moving forward. Hunters harvested roughly 30,000 less deer
8. in 2023 than they did in 2022, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** The DNR charts the prevalence rate of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) among all deer
10. that tested positive for bTB in Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452 from 1995 through 2023.
11. Baiting deer for hunting has been illegal in DMU 452 since 2002. There has been little change
12. In the prevalence rate of the disease since then. The bait ban has not impacted or mitigated the
13. spread. The prevalence rate usually varies from one year to the next, but not enough to
14. Confirm a ban on baiting has reduced the spread of the disease. The prevalence rate of bTB
15. among wild deer in DMU 452 during 2003 and 2004, for example, is listed as 1.7%. The
16. Prevalence rates of the disease for 2022 and 2023 are exactly the same at 1.7%, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** Deer physically interact with each other. Doe with their young, mating, licking
18. branches, fighting, scrapes, and even feeding naturally on apples, cherries, sugar beets, corn,
19. soybeans, and acorns. Bait spread out over a reasonable area is not a significant change to the
20. natural behavior of deer, and;
21. **WHEREAS:** Hunters' success rates have declined due to the bait ban 2020-2022 there was an
22. increase in hunters due to the pandemic, but now that hunter numbers are back to pre-2020
23. levels, the success rates are significantly lower than in 2019. Even though there are more deer
24. now, and;
25. **WHEREAS:** Many Michigan hunters get 1-2 weeks of vacation time per year from work. This

26. leads to most deer hunters only spending 3-5 days in the field. With the bait ban impacting the
27. harvest rates negatively, many have lost interest in hunting. We need to harvest more deer for
28. the health of the herd, and to keep hunters interested and buying licenses for conservation
29. funding, and;

30. **WHEREAS:** The use of bait helps position deer for a hunter to make a clean and ethical kill
31. shot. Especially new and disabled hunters, and;

32. **WHEREAS:** Bait is sold all over the state of Michigan and many hunters still secretly bait. This
33. creates an unstable and negative relationship between the DNR and hunters because hunters
34. know they are breaking the law. They will not call, communicate or help the DNR because they
35. do not want their secret baiting to be discovered. They certainly won't report to the DNR or
36. Have them out on their property. Positive and helpful communication between the DNR and
37. licensed hunters is critical for conservation success, and;

38. **WHEREAS:** Laws or regulations that impact hunters and do not make scientific sense, cause
39. distrust of the DNR and leads to disinterest in the sport itself, and;

40. **WHEREAS:** A large portion of MUCC membership is made up of hunters in the southern
41. Zones. Many of these hunters have access to hunt agriculture fields and do not see the need
42. For baiting. Those hunters should be mindful of their Northern Michigan brothers and sisters
43. who are greatly impacted by the bait ban when they vote. We are all in this together, NOW;

44. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the Michigan DNR to eliminate the
45. current bait ban and implement a new deer baiting program that legalizes baiting. The new
46. program would allow hunters to bait two days prior to and during all deer hunting seasons. The
47. bait must be limited to 5 gallons and spread out evenly over a minimum of a 5-yard square.

Suggestions to writer: provide citations, include regional data on success, consistency of recommendation with UP/LP, reference CWD, consider reduction in scope (only "non disease areas"), public/private land consistency, how does this align with mission?

DRAFT JUNE 1, 2024 CPB MINUTES

Vice President Dey called the meeting to order at 10:30am

Vice President Dey provided the welcoming remarks.

Vice President Dey led the group in the pledge of allegiance and conservation pledge.

Introduction of members, staff, and guests.

Vice President Steve Dey announced vacancies, Club Member Regions 4 & 6, and IM in Region 5.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM DEC 2, 2023 MEETING. Steven Lomonaco(Jack Lehto) Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA Allen Kasdorf(Joe Sommers) Motion approved unanimously.

Speaker Kris Dey

Break for Lunch 11:43 am

Returned from Lunch at 12:18pm

Committee Reports

Wildlife: Discuss on the two resolutions.

Fisheries: Herbicides in lakes, open water spearing resolution potentially coming.

Parks: Committee has been inactive, talked about committee charge, and cutting trail in Sleeping Bear Dunes. Support resolution #B

Shooting: Discussion on Resolutions.

Education: New DNR policy to recruit new hunters safety instructors. Committee talked about ways to streamline.

Resolutions

Proposed Resolution #A

MOTION TO BRING PROPOSED RESOLUTION #A TO THE FLOOR Zach Snyder(Joe Sommers) Motion approved unanimously.

Jack VanRhee spoke on the resolution.

Bryan Reynolds spoke on the resolution.

MOTION TO REFER BACK TO AUTHOR WITH COMMENTS Taylor Renton(Bryan Reynolds) Motion carries unanimously.

Proposed Resolution #B

MOTION TO BRING PROPOSED RESOLUTION #B TO THE FLOOR Tim Markham(Bryan Reynolds) Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW RESOLUTION Joe Sommers(Jack Lehto) Motion carries unanimously.

Mini-Strategic Planning

- Strategic Planning?
 - Scientific Review
 - Scientific rigor after passage at CPB, prior to convention. To be included with MUCC comments.
 - Do not want to disincentivize submission of resolutions.
 - Mediator
 - No desire for a mediator.
 - Slower Process
- Schedule
 - Happy with meeting schedule.
- Communications'
 - Member Communications Committee Chair Ron Burris spoke about the committee and the work they are beginning.
 - Discussion on ways to improve communication in both directions.
- Locations
 - Like club hosting structure, clubs and members are happy with it.

President Miller gave the Executive Board Report.

President Miller gave the Moment for the Mission.

Announcement of next meeting, August 17, Jay's Sporting Goods Webber Education Center Clare, MI

MOTION TO ADJOURN Bryan Reynolds(Steven Lomonaco)

Meeting Adjourned 1:55 p.m.