

The Quiver

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Region 7 Monthly Newsletter

April 2024 Vol. 33

Conservation organization files suit against resources commission

By Justin Tomei March 28, 2024

On March 28, the nation's largest statewide conservation organization [filed suit against the Natural Resources Commission](#) (NRC), challenging the three-month closure of the coyote hunting season.

At the March NRC, the commission, in a 4-2 vote, voted to close the coyote hunting season from April 16 through July 14 through the adoption of Wildlife Conservation Order #1 of 2024. Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) testified in opposition to the closure.

MUCC filed in Ingham County, arguing that the commission unlawfully closed Michigan's coyote season, violating their responsibility and legal charge. The Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers (MTPCA) has also filed a lawsuit against the commission in Mackinac County.

The groups argue that the NRC relied on unsubstantiated claims of negative public perception and perceived potential loss of management control, said MUCC Chief Executive Officer Amy Trotter.

"The record is unambiguous: the commission has not heard or cited any scientific literature or rationale justifying the closure," Trotter said. "Meanwhile, there were hours of public testimony on the practical benefits of coyote hunting during the spring season, while being reinforced with cited literature."

MUCC's mission is to unite citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's outdoor heritage, and this issue is bigger than coyote hunting, said MUCC President Rob Miller.

"The board voted unanimously to take this action, consistent with MUCC's mission," Miller said. "MUCC was founded on the belief that game management decisions should be grounded in science and insulated from political and social pressures. This is a foundational issue for our organization, and we were obligated to act on behalf of Michigan's conservationists."

Mark Spencer, president of the MTPCA, said the idea that trappers and predator callers are behind the closure is misguided.

"The stance taken with litigation clearly shows the trappers and predator callers of Michigan are firmly united behind the principles of science-based management," Spencer said. "Our groups present a united front to ensure our outdoor heritage is protected and grounded in science for generations to come."

MUCC's notice, filed in Ingham County Circuit Court, will be followed by the organization's briefs. The process is expected to play out over the coming months and MUCC can not waver on its principles, said Trotter.

"MUCC is the nation's largest, most successful, statewide conservation organization," said Trotter. "We were founded for moments like this, and we will continue our work to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage."

To learn more about MUCC and our work, visit www.mucc.org.

2024 Convention highlights



Who would have thought that a trip to Sault Ste Marie Michigan in March would be totally snowless. Well, mother nature was exceptionally generous to members who made the trip. Why the trip to the UP is important? Just in case you didn't realize it's part of Michigan too. Wilderness, trout streams and wildlife that many states would love to have and it's just up the road. That's Why. Friday's highlight was the Hatchery Tour and Reception at the Center for Freshwater Research. The appetizers were out of this world and all who went through the tour found it to be totally amazing.

This years convention was well attended with a required quorum present. President Tim our outgoing President started the convention with a warm welcome to members present and as always the pledge of allegiance and conservation pledge followed. After region 5's director, Dawn Levey, read the Moments of Memory; a reflection of members who past away in 2023. After the readings I couldn't help not giving Jane Finnerty a hug. From then on the format and agenda took us through our resolutions and lunch and our Keynote Speaker Taylor Ridderbusch (DNR Legislative Liaison) In his role, he acts as the main conduit between the department and the Michigan Legislature by reviewing and analyzing bills, resolving constituent issues and developing legislative priorities. The afternoon session finished up the resolutions.

The Dinner and Conservation Awards Banquet (a ticketed event) followed a busy day and stressed just how important and how luck our state is to have devoted conservationist and volunteers from every corner of our state. This was a time to recognize a few of them.

The nominating committee is comprised of Past Presidents who consider application and nominations submitted to the committee. This is my 7th yr. on this committee and I'm honored to be part of it. The award winners are on the following page.

The Sunday session brought the announcement of the new Regions 2.4.6.8 directors. Region 2; Mark Spencer, Straits Area Sportsman's Club. Region 4; Todd Johnson, National Deer Association - Northern Jack Pine Branch. Region 6; Wayne Hanson, Saginaw Field and Stream . Region 8; Leonard Shaner, Gilberts Sportsman Club. Region 8 At large; Kris Matthew, Huron Valley Conservation Association. Appointed Directors at Large; Doug Krizanac and Pat Hogan. Our new Vice President is Steve Day; Straits Area Sportsman Club. Our new President is Rob Miller. Congratulations to All.

The conventions final act on Sunday, was a well presented annual report. Great graphics and serious statistics of our organizations need of more members and how to accomplish this important task. A new marketing campaign with Stone Road (professional marketing company) and each members help in inviting new individual members and new clubs to join will be required to accomplish this all important issue.

Congratulations!!



Conservation Organization of the Year

Flat Rock Sportsman Association

Nominated By: Robert Le Blanc



Rising Star in Conservation

Shaun McKeon

Nominated By: Tim Mure



Sue Pride Unsung Hero

Dean Hall

Nominated By: Ronald Burriss



Fisheries Conservationist Of the Year

Eric Braden

Nominated By: Rob Miller

Flat Rock Sportsman Association : This Award recognizes the Flat Rock Sportsman Association and the Huron River Fishing Association for their work on the Flat Rock Dam Fish Ladder in the spring and summer . In partnership with the city of Flat Rock and the Metro Parks, rebuilding and stabilizing the fish ladder that was originally built in 1998. The fish ladder was returned to operational status in August of 2023

Rising Star in Conservation: Shawn McKeon's dedication and passion fo conservation are truly inspiring. Through his commitment to MUCC for nearly 12 years and his tireless efforts, McKeon has made remarkable strides in protection our outdoor heritage and promoting MUCC'S 40,000 member. Whether its's writing articles for TRACKS magazine, serving on the NRC or mentoring camp staff, McKeon has demonstrated exceptional leadership

Sue Pride Unsung Hero: Dean Hall started a beginner's archery program at the inner-city recreation center where he and his wife previously lived. Currently, Dean is the lead coach of the Anchor Bay school system's archery club. In addition to being a MDNR recreational safety instructor and a retired volunteer hunter safety instructor , Dean has been a volunteer international bowhunters education instructor since 1995. Most notably, Dean was the director for Michigan Sportsman Against Hunger.

Fisheries Conservatoinist of the Year: Eric first joined the Metro-West Steel headers in 2009 and has been chair of the MUCC fisheries committee since 2012... Eric enjoys nearly all types of fishing associated with Michigan; Big lake, kayak, pier, beach, river and inland lake. For 40 years, Ericks his wife has been his best fishing buddy. Eric and his wife are currently updating an old church to turn into a fishing retreat. Erics commitment to fisheries and his willingness to go above and beyond is exemplary.

Photos and Text compliments of MUCC



“What does Sault Ste Marie Mean?

In 1668, Father Jacques Marquette, a French Jesu-it missionary, named the area Sault de Sainte Marie. Because of the structure of the French language instead of it being Sainte Marie's Sault (rapids), it is Sault of Sainte Marie. The modern-day name, Sault Ste. Marie, keeps the French feminine version of saint intact.

The next NRC meeting is Thursday, April th 2024, at Lansing Community College Downtown 600 N. Grand Ave. Watch committee, as a whole live on MUCC’S Facebook page.

MUCC Supported Commercial Fishing Legislation introduced in Mi. House

By Justin Tomei March 21,2024

On March 6, Rep. Amos O’Neal (D-Saginaw) introduced a stakeholder-backed modernization of Michigan’s commercial fishing statute.

[House Bill 5553](#), written over the past several months in partnership with MUCC, would modernize archaic regulations in the state’s commercial fishing statute, and keep gamefish out of commercial nets.

Michigan’s commercial fishing statute is decades old and an update is long overdue to protect the pristine Great Lakes fishery, said Amos O’Neal.

“Michigan is so beautiful with its lakes and streams, and one of my favorite pastimes in the summer is to fish,” said Rep. O’Neal. “I am proud to introduce a bill to modernize the state’s commercial fishing industry. House Bill 5553 makes a change to commercial fishing that has not taken place in over 50 years. These protections are long past due.”

According to MUCC Policy and Government Affairs Manager Justin Tomei, the current commercial fishing statute needs to be revised protecting the investment licensed anglers have made in the management of our sportfish. “Currently we operate with an abhorrent patchwork of rules and regulations, many of them have not been updated since the 1970s,” said Tomei. “We must modernize this industry, create a single regulatory framework in statute, and keep gamefish out of commercial nets, protecting the investment licensed anglers have made managing and rearing these fish.”

The bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation.

HB 5553 starkly contrasts HB 5108, introduced by Rep. Jason Morgan (D-Ann Arbor) last fall. HB 5108 sets minimum quotas for gamefish to be caught by state-licensed commercial anglers, commercializing a resource held in the public trust.

MUCC opposes HB 5108 and started a call to action resulting in 85,000 emails being sent to legislative offices in opposition to the commercialization of Michigan’s game fish.

MUCC supports HB 5553 and looks forward to working with legislators to secure passage in 2024.

To ensure our natural resources remain protected and managed thoughtfully and our outdoor heritage defended, join Michigan United Conservation Clubs today: <http://bit.ly/JoinMUCC>.

“Michigan is so beautiful with its lakes and streams, and one of my favorite pastimes in the summer is to fish. However, it is important that Michigan has protections in place to help continue to keep our waterways prosperous and fish populations robust,” said Rep. O’Neal. “I am proud to introduce a bill to modernize the state’s commercial fishing industry. This bill sets parameters around commercial fishing such as licensing fees, gear used, and allowable species for harvest, and will protect our game fish such as lake trout, walleye, and yellow perch from commercial harvest and bycatch. House Bill 5553 makes a change to commercial fishing that has not taken place in over 50 years. These protections are long past due.”

March NRC: Commission Votes to End Year-round

Coyote Hunting

By Nick Green March 14, 2024

“A prelude to the cover article”

Commissioners voted to close Michigan’s coyote season from April 15 to July 15 at March’s Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting.

Commissioners voted on [Wildlife Conservation Order #1 of 2024](#), and based their decision on perceived social pressures, shirking their responsibility and legal charge to follow sound scientific management.

MUCC Chief Executive Officer Amy Trotter said that this sets future managers at a disadvantage, making it harder to use lethal control.

“No scientific evidence has been presented to justify the closure of the coyote hunting season, and the NRC had an obligation to oppose this part of the order per Proposal G and the authority it provides to them,” Trotter said. “Now enacted, it will make the fight to defend lethal wildlife management that much harder.”

MUCC Policy and Government Affairs Manager Justin Tomei said the science on coyote management is clear.

“Today, we laid out a clear scientific argument for the use of lethal coyote management, via hunters, during the spring and summer months,” said Tomei. “Coyote management is most effective in the spring when you can actively control local predator populations, limit depredation and increase deer densities.”

MUCC also made the case that the commission should at least wait until the conclusion of the Deer Management Initiative (DMI) to see what recommendations the workgroup comes up with regarding predator management.

“The first question during the first DMI meeting was about predator management,” Trotter said. “The DMI will inevitably make some recommendation regarding predator management, and the commission should wait to ensure all stakeholder opinions are considered.”

The vote came after commissioners rejected attempts from commissioners Nyberg and Walters to remove the closure from the wildlife conservation order and table the vote. Ultimately the closure was adopted on a 4-2 vote, closing coyote season beginning April 15.

MUCC opposed the closure based on a 2005 and 2024 policy supporting year-round coyote hunting. For many years, MUCC has advocated on behalf of its grassroots members to expand opportunities to harvest coyotes.

At [MUCC's Annual Convention](#) this past weekend, its membership unanimously adopted another resolution reinforcing our unwavering commitment to sound scientific management and year-round coyote hunting.

Before the committee of the whole, the wildlife committee saw a presentation on deer predation in the UP, and the fisheries committee saw a presentation on invasive carp.

The director's report featured a 40 years of service award, the wildlife division annual report, migratory game bird hunting seasons overview, elk regulations, and a Deer Management Initiative update.

The commission had two orders up for information at the meeting.

[Wildlife Conservation Order #2 of 2024](#) sets season dates, within federal guidelines, for migratory waterfowl species. The season dates and bag limits fall in line with the 2023 season structure

[Wildlife Conservation Order #3 of 2024](#) sets elk regulations, to which there are no substantive changes to dates, regulations, or quotas. The order includes a return of in-person check stations, something constituents have asked for as a community event.

Both of these orders are eligible for action at the April 11 meeting.

MUCC reviews all land transactions exceeding 80 acres, of which there was one. [Land Transaction Case #20240002](#) is a gift of 200 acres, which will be dedicated as part of the Barry State Game Area.

To ensure our natural resources remain protected and managed thoughtfully and our outdoor heritage defended, [join Michigan United Conservation Clubs today!](#)



Like Minded
Folks  Centershot
GUN RANGE/TRAINING
Closed Monday
Open Tue.-Sat 10-8
2368 142 Ave Dorr Mi.
616-371-7468

How to become a Michigan Recreational Safety Instructor

By [Shannon Stover](#) March 26th 2024

Background and Problem

Over the last several years, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been developing a new process to become a certified Michigan Recreational Safety Instructor. This process was rolled out at the beginning of 2024 and is only necessary for **new** instructors for all programs (Bow Hunter Education, Trapper Education, Snowmobile Safety, ORV Safety, Boating Safety and Hunter Education). Some of these courses are required by law, and others are highly encouraged to conduct these activities safely. To find out if you need to take one of these courses and which ones, [click here](#).

While instructors have always been expected to meet a level of professionalism and safety, the instructor certification process for all six programs has been inconsistent and has not always prepared instructors to teach these programs effectively. There are also current instructors who are **inactive** in their volunteer roles, making it more difficult for students to find courses. However, there will always be a need for new Recreational Safety Instructors and MUCC wants to disseminate this information widely so the supply of classes will be able to keep up with demand.

New Recreational Safety Instructor Application and Training Process

Taking the time to go through the new process is crucial to ensure we have safe and active individuals in the woods and on our waters.

First, you must be qualified to become an instructor. Qualifications include being 18 years of age or older, having a high school diploma or GED, having no felonies or convictions and having a student safety certificate for the course you are applying to teach. For a FULL LIST of qualifications, head to <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/get-involved/volunteer-recreational-safety-instructor>.

Next, you will apply online by completing the instructor application found [HERE](#). Once the DNR receives your application and you meet all the qualifications, they will conduct a background check. You will be notified via email of your background check results. If you pass, you'll receive the next steps in the application process in that email. If you do not pass the background check, you will not be allowed to proceed in the process and your application will be withdrawn.

Three virtual modules must be completed within six months of getting your background check results. Module 1 must be completed before receiving Module 2, and the same for Module 3. Once you complete these three modules, you can attend one of the **mandatory** two-day, in-person trainings. To ensure a fair process for every interested party, there is a paper application process for those with a valid reason for not using a computer, phone or tablet to complete the online process.

After completing the three virtual training modules, you will be approved to attend the two-day, in-person training. Right now, these in-person trainings will be held at the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center in Roscommon, MI. The DNR has released three dates for this training, with one TBA for January 2025. You must attend ONE of the following training dates:



April 20-21, 2024

July 19-20, 2024

October 19-20, 2024

The two-day training is free of cost, and meals and housing are provided to all participants. You will be notified via email after completing the three virtual training modules on how to register for the in-person training and additional information. Once you meet all the training requirements, including passing a final exam, you will officially be a certified Michigan Recreational Safety Instructor for the program in which you were trained.

Current Instructors

If you already are a Recreational Safety Instructor, thank you. Michigan needs you. The DNR, as well as organizations like us at Michigan United Conservation Clubs, value the time you put into leading classes. Current instructors do NOT have to participate in any of the required training, including attending any of the two-day in-person trainings mentioned above.

What you do have to do is fill out the survey that was sent to your email on February 1, 2024. Once you review the new policy and procedure manual, click the link in that email and complete the survey. This will take you less than 30 seconds. You MUST complete that survey BEFORE May 1, 2024, and cannot instruct any classes until doing so, no matter what program you teach.

Current Hunter, Bow, and Trapper instructors must attend a hunter education workshop within two years of their initial certification and attend one every two years after that. This helps ensure instructors teach the most up-to-date information and are following proper policies and procedures. Instructors will receive an email with the finalized schedule and can find it posted in Event Manager.

In Michigan, there are constant changes in regulations for hunting, trapping, boating and all recreational activities. It is not only the participants' responsibility to stay up to date on these changes but also a requirement for volunteer Recreational Safety Instructors.

Michigan needs more instructors, but we do not need to cut corners to up our numbers. We are not teaching people and our youth how to make a paper airplane or ride a bike. We are teaching them how to handle firearms, how to survive in the woods if they get hurt or lost and how to be safe and ethical conservation enthusiasts. Teaching these things should not be taken lightly, and all should be willing to do what is required to become a certified Recreational Safety Instructor.

Stay connected and stay outdoors.

Convention snap shots

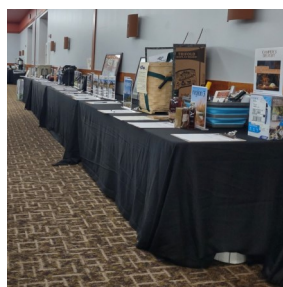
Passing the gavel



Region 7 basket made \$600



Silent auction table



MUCC Store made \$700



Summary and status of 2024 Resolution the. The name of the Resolution and the “Therefore Be it Resolved”.

#1 Resolution #A Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Richard P. Smith, Life Member Proposed: June 3, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Weatherproofing Labels on Beverage Bottles. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC will work with state Legislators in drafting legislation to require bottlers who sell beverages in Michigan to have weatherproof labeling on their bottles to comply with the state’s Container Deposit Law. **FAILED on Voice Vote**

#2 Proposed Resolution #B Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Richard P. Smith, Life Member Proposed: June 3, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Expanding Michigan’s Bottle Bill . THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC will work with state Legislators in drafting Legislation to expand Michigan’s Container Deposit Law to include more types of beverages. **Passed on Voice Vote**

#3 Proposed Resolution #C Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Brian Herbert, Paw Paw Conservation Club Proposed: June 3, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Develop a Cormorant Control Program Using Volunteer Licensed Hunters THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: MUCC will work with the Michigan DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create and implement a hunting permit program for volunteer hunters to participate in harvesting cormorants for population management. **Passed on Voice Vote**

#4 Proposed Resolution #E Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Patrick Murphy, Individual Member Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Consistency in Au Sable River Trout Fishing Seasons THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Michigan United Conservation Club shall work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the NRC to change the classification and/or fishing regulations of the stretch of the Au Sable River from Evans Road (McKinley Bridge) to 4001 Bridge to provide year-round trout angling opportunities consistent with the remainder of the Au Sable river system above Alcona Pond. Passed amended; to include AuSable Advisory Counsel **Passed**

#5 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 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC will support the adoption of antler point regulations that are designed to protect the majority of yearling bucks, while also making a majority of 2.5-year-old bucks eligible for harvest. **Failed by Card Vote**

If you would like to see all of the entire resolutions and results go [HERE](#)

#5 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 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC will support the adoption of antler point regulations that are designed to protect the majority of yearling bucks, while also making a majority of 2.5-year-old bucks eligible for harvest. **Failed by Card Vote**

#6 Proposed Resolution #F Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: George Lindquist, Executive Board Proposed: August 26 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Michigan Moose Hunt THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC work with the Michigan DNR, Natural Resources Commission, and Legislature to conduct a very limited bull moose hunt in the UP of Michigan, and a separate lottery, much like the current elk lottery, with monies derived going to sustaining and growing this iconic species in Michigan. **Passed by Voice Vote**

#7 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 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC work with the DNR to allow any points beyond what is necessary for an applicant to draw their tag to be transferable to those eligible within the already established guidelines of the DNR hunt transfer program. **Passed by Card Vote**

#8 Proposed Resolution #H Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Eric Braden, Executive Board Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Boat Registration Fee Increases THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MUCC will work with the legislature, DNR, and stakeholders to increase boater registration fees to ensure that the revenues generated will continue to augment the resources required to operate and maintain the Michigan State Waterways Program, including the public DNR-owned and Grant-In-Aid harbor facilities and boating access sites and the overall infrastructure and operations needed to support a sustainable, statewide recreational boating program. **Passed by Voice Vote**

#9 Proposed Resolution #A Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Rob Miller, Vice President, Mark Tarman, Individual Member Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Tree stands on Public Lands THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MUCC supports NRC action to change the current regulation allowing an individual to utilize another individual's legally placed hunting equipment, such as a tree stand or other portable blind on public property and make it illegal to knowingly use a legally placed stand or blind that does not belong to you or one of your immediate hunting party, without written permission to do so. **Passed with Voice Vote**

#10 Proposed Resolution #J Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan State Council – National Deer Association Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: MUCC Support For DMU Antlerless Harvest Goals THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC work with the DNR and NRC to implement annually adjusted DMU level antlerless harvest goals, educate and inform hunters regarding those goals, 18. provide in season information to hunters on goal achievement, and in cases of significant overharvest allows for the closing of seasons or limitation of additional harvest. **Passed with Voice Vote**

#11 Proposed Resolution #C Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Merle Jones, MTPCA Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Support of Year Round Coyote Hunting. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Michigan United Conservation Clubs support “Year Round” Coyote Hunting, and stand in opposition to any limitations, restrictions or bans that would reduce the opportunities for the vital management of coyote populations, lacking any significant biological justification. **Passed with Voice Vote**

#12 Proposed Resolution #I Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Travis White, Individual Member Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Protecting the High-Quality Lake Trout Fishery of Stannard Rock BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that MUCC work with the DNR to study the effectiveness of deep water release methods to increase survivability over surface release and explore other methods of maintaining the Stannard Rock lake trout population dynamics. This might include defining baseline population metrics and establishing management criteria to maintain or improve on those metrics over time through available management tools, regulations, and angler behaviors, and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that MUCC work with the DNR and NRC to create a zone and designation to recognize and protect the Stannard Rock fishery, potentially with different regulations informed by science, to protect its high-quality status against increasing angling exploitation, consistent with the management objectives established by the draft Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan 2023– 2033. **Passed with Voice Vote**

#13 Proposed Resolution #D Requires Simple Majority Submitted by: UP Whitetails of Marquette County, Region 1 Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Include crop damage and DMAP take in harvest reporting THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the DNR, to better show the public a more detailed picture of our whitetail deer harvests, add a column to the yearly harvest reports with Crop Damage **Passed with Voice Vote**

#14 Proposed Resolution #F Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan State Council – National Deer Association Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting Title: Support For Expansion of Venison Donation Programs. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that MUCC work with the DNR and legislature to ensure that MSAH, or any other state-sponsored venison donation program have the funds and policies necessary to efficiently test and distribute venison to the states-hungry, to expand the program to processors in every county in the state, to compensate processors for donated venison at annually adjusted market rates, ensure that processors have adequate storage space for donated venison while waiting for test results, (in some cases this may mean providing seasonal refrigerated trailers or freezers), and that they are compensated for the necessary additional mandated lead, CWD and TB testing work, and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that MUCC continue to work for programs, which could include license fee rebates, to encourage venison donations from hunters and donations from culling programs. **Passed with Voice Vote**

#15 Proposed Emergency Resolution Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Eric Braden, Executive Board Proposed: November 1, 2023 Executive Board Meeting Title: MUCC Opposition to the Nyberg Amendment THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the NRC work with the MDNR Biologist, State Universities, Organizations, and the many Citizens Fisheries Advisory Councils to provide and assess information for the “Science-based” management of Michigan’s Fisheries. **Passed**

#16 Proposed Emergency Resolution Requires 2/3 Majority Submitted by: Eric Braden, Executive Board Proposed: November 1, 2023 Executive Board Meeting Title: MUCC Opposition to the Nyberg Amendment THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MUCC strongly opposes the proposed Nyberg Amendment based upon information provided by MDNR Biologists, as outlined in the “Michigan Steelhead Management – Large River Creel Surveys to inform Status of the fishery”, Presenters Seth Herbst and Jay Wesley NRC Fisheries Subcommittee Meeting September 14, 2023, and; THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the NRC work with the MDNR Biologist, State Universities, Organizations, and the many Citizens Fisheries Advisory Councils to provide and assess information for the “Science-based” management of Michigan’s Fisheries. **Withdrawn**

17 Steve Dey, Executive Board, George Lindquist, Executive Board, Gary Gorniak, CPB Region 2 Support the Sportsman’s Alliance ; Therefore let it be resolved ; MUCC supports the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation in both its petition in Gray Wolf Management. **Passed**

#18 Additional Trolling Rod Proposal MUCC Fisheries Committee ; Therefor let it be resolved that MUCC Opposes the additional license to have and additional 3 rods. **Failed**

#19 Education Committee, Dawn Levey, Executive Board, Len Shaner Use of Social Media by members: Therefor let it be resolved that MUCC work with and encourage individuals and other conservation organizations and hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting sport groups to also refrain from publicizing perceived offensive photographs or information. **Passed**

By-Law results summary

The official Bylaw results have not yet been published. Below is a summary of my notes.

#1. Proposed By-law **Withdrawn**

#2. A. Notice – Notice occurs when the required documents are SENT TO VALID EMAIL ADDRESSES ELECTRONICALLY OR placed in the U.S. mail, first class, with proper postage and properly addressed with the last known address on the records of the Corporation of the intended recipient. **Passed**

#3. President with boards approval, can appoint an additional 2 more Directors at Large with a total of 4 appointed at large directors on the executive board **Passed as amended.**

#4. Replace the term “Executive Director” with “Chief Executive Officer” at every occurrence in the bylaws. **Passed**

#5 Purpose: To encourage clubs to submit their completed roster by a designated date. At this time, each affiliated club receives a particular number of votes at the Annual Michigan United Conservation Clubs Convention (MUCC) based on the size of their club roster. To encourage clubs to submit their completed club rosters by a designated date set by the Executive Board, a club will receive one (1) additional vote to be used at the Annual MUCC Convention. **Passed**

Happenings Around the Region In February 2024 open to the public

Grand Valley Cap & Ballers : Sporting Clays (modern shotguns) April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20,21 MUCC & 21 both days fundraiser. Sept.21, Oct. 12.. Sept. Spring shoots start May 3rd, 4th and 5th. See website for details. Frontier Shoot Aug. 1,2,3,4th. (this is a big deal) Ladies only weekend Aug. 24th, 25th See Website for much more.

Fennville Rod and Gun Club: Trap and Skeet shooting April 2,9,16,23,30 12-5pm \$5 per round. April 28th CPL Class to register contact Skip Coryell 269-838-5586

Grass Lake Sportsman Club: go to Facebook and website for updates.

Hillsdale County Conservation Club: Monthly 30 3-D target shoots. All shoots run from 9am-1pm. April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, Aug 26+27, Sept 17 Open to Public \$5 per person. Youth Archery every Sunday from 5pm=7pm

New Buffalo Rod and Gun Club: April Wednesday's Trap Practice 6PM Trap Games shoot 6:30 pm and Sunday Trap practice 10am to 1pm. Basic handgun Level 1 8-12pm NON-MEMBERS are welcome to attend all upcoming events!

Dowagiac Conservation Club: Fish Fry April 19th 4:30-7pm , Trap shooting 6-10pm Sat. 27th CPL class 8-5pm. Sunday 28 3-D Archery 8-12pm

Bend of the River Conservation Club: Every Monday and Wed . in April 9-4pm Basic Pistol Training \$5. Contact Sunne Beaty 312-618-3588. April 25-27 Hunter Ed. Training in Club house. Contact Geoffrey Hurst at pandgdeer@gmail.com

Paw Paw Conservation Club Trap Shooting every Monday year round 4:30– 10:00pm \$4 for 25 birds. Free round for anyone who shoots a perfect round (25) For info call (269) 657-8949 after 4:30 on Monday's Phone # 269-657-8949

Edwardsburg Conservation Club : Year round Trap shooting event Games on Saturdays 10-1PM. 8th Combo Hunters Safety and Bow Hunter Safety Classes April 3rd 2024. Wednesday 7-8pm Parents, students will pick up books and info. Classes April 13–14 8am-4pm each day. Register than sign up for the class. More info on clubs Facebook pg.

Hamilton Rod and Gun Hunter Ed. Traditional Course April 8-9 and 11, 13 Must attend all classes/ Calcutta April 12th

Jackson County Outdoor Club: FYI Jackson County Conservation District Annual spring tree sale fundraiser will be April 12-13 at Keely Park. This is a pre-order event For more information go to <http://www.jacksoncd.org> / Trap shooting begins on April 3rd,2024 and will be every Wednesday night at 5PM through October. / April 6th 2024 Hunter Safety Field Day 8-12pm \$5 arrive 15 min early for registration.

Bellevue Conservation Club: Open Trap, Skeet and 5-Stand shooting every Sunday 2-6pm and Wednesday 6-10pm. We have 3 Trap/Skeet combo fields with lights. Trap games and Calcutta starting at 5pm on the first Friday of each month from April to October. 8484 Greenfield Highway, Bellevue, Michigan 49021.

St. Jo Conservation Club. CPL Class Sat. April 13th . 9AM–6PM. Tue. All month 5;30 youth trap practice 6 pm Trap and Skeet . April 7th 10am Hunter Ed. Study Book Pick up. April 20 Hunter Ed. Field Day 3-D Archery is open. Tue. Eve. Shoots 5;30 \$5 members \$10 non-members. Members self serve still open 7 day per week.

All Species Conservation Club April 9th 6:30 regular meeting guest speaker Lure builders with new paints, tapes and tricks. Travelers Pub Portage Mi.

if would like me to show up at one of your membership meeting to give you an update of what's happening in MUCC's world, email me or call rhbhunt3@gmail.com or call 269-209-1770

Did you know?

Find your elected State Representatives

[HERE](#)

Next Region 7 Meeting

May 5th Region 7 Meeting at [Dowagiac Conservation Club](#)

July 20-21 Sporting Clay Region 7 MUCC Fundraiser at
[Grand Valley Cap & Ballers](#) (our 4th year)

[Camo & Conservation Banquet](#) Sat. May 4th

St. Mary's Visitation Community Center 2455 146th Ave Byron Center Mi.

Join us in a night of camaraderie, adventure and giving, while supporting the voices of Michigan hunters, fishermen, trappers and outdoor enthusiasts.

What's Cooking ?

White Fish Primavera

"Dixie Dave's" Receipt on Mike Avery Outdoor Show

8-10 oz. of Filet per person	1 Teaspoon Butter
1/2 cup of white wine	Juice of one lime
1 Garlic clove, chopped fine	Basil to taste
1 oz. Brandy	Fresh vegetable your choice
2 eggs beaten well	Flour to dredge
Olive oil to sauté	

Coat filets with flour, place in beaten eggs. Pour olive oil in hot pan. Then place filets skin side up in pan. Brown both sides and simmer 1 minute with brandy (optional). Add butter, white wine, lime juice, basil and garlic. Simmer for 1 minute, add vegetables, cover and simmer for 2-3 minutes. Uncover and reduce volume over high heat until thick and creamy.

Listen to Mike's show
on Sunday's at 5am-
8am on WBCK FM 95.3
Battle Creek



Conservationist Pledge: I give my Pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, it's Air, soil and minerals, it's forests water and wildlife

This Publication is compiled and distributed by Ronald H. Burris Past Present, Region
7 Director Michigan United Conservation Clubs