

**Proposed Resolution #1**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Saginaw Field and Stream Club

MUCC Region: 6

Passed:

Title:           **SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING (GRUS CANADENSIS)**

- 1   **WHEREAS**, Sandhill Cranes have a viable population, which resides and migrates through the  
2   State of Michigan; and  
3   **WHEREAS**, over 16 other states along with Canada and Mexico have Sandhill Crane Seasons,  
4   and  
5   **WHEREAS**, Michigan Hunters have to leave the state to enjoy this sport; and  
6   **WHEREAS**, there is no scientific reason why we should not hunt this game bird; and  
7   **WHEREAS**, this recognized game bird is responsible for a lot of crop damage. NOW,  
8   **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with  
9   the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and anyone  
10  else to establish a Sandhill Crane Hunting Season in the State of Michigan.

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

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region 8 Policy Board

MUCC Region: 8

Passed:

Title:           **DESIGNATE MOURNING DOVE AS A GAMEBIRD**

- 1   **WHEREAS** Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 1187 into law reaffirming the Scientific Fish  
2   and Wildlife Conservation Act ensuring that fish, wildlife, and conservation decisions are made  
3   by the State of Michigan's professional fish and wildlife biologists using sound scientific  
4   management methods; and

5    **WHEREAS** the most popular gamebird in the United States is the mourning dove in which over  
6    20 million are harvested annually in 42 States including surrounding States of Michigan  
7    (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois); and  
8    **WHEREAS** the mourning doves are prolific breeders and can have up to six broods a year  
9    which are more than any other bird species and a mourning dove’s life span is less than 1 year.  
10   It is a great species to introduce to beginning hunters, youth hunters, and it is a great way to  
11   ensure hunting for the elderly and disabled hunters with mobility issues; and  
12   **WHEREAS** in 2006, the State of Michigan had a successful dove season when Act 160 of 2006  
13   listed the dove as a gamebird until the 2006 election vote on a referendum sponsored by out of  
14   state anti-hunting groups misguided Michigan’s voters with untruths about doves and hunters, in  
15   a similar way that they have done with wolves. NOW,  
16   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work  
17   with the Michigan Legislature to eliminate the unnecessary restrictions on the Natural Resources  
18   Commission in naming game species; and  
19   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Michigan Natural Resource Commission and  
20   Michigan’s wildlife biologists use sound science to once again designate the mourning dove as a  
21   gamebird.

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

Submitted by: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

MUCC Region: 9

Passed:        Region 9, March 1, 2017

Title:         **DEVELOPMENT OF A SHORT TERM (7 DAY) NON-RESIDENT  
WATERFOWL LICENSE SYSTEM**

1   **WHEREAS**, Michigan is a premier destination for waterfowl hunters throughout the Midwest,  
2   and  
3   **WHEREAS**, Michigan’s requirement for non-resident waterfowl hunters is that they must  
4   purchase the annual non-resident base license at \$151 in addition to the \$12 Waterfowl License,  
5   and  
6   **WHEREAS**, Michigan’s current waterfowl hunting license system does not provide a  
7   comparable cost short term waterfowl license package similar to surrounding states – MI current  
8   fees for non-residents are 2-3 times higher, and  
9   **WHEREAS**, non-resident waterfowl license buyers have declined 27 percent since the new  
10   license structure was implemented in 2014, and  
11   **WHEREAS**, the DNR and other waterfowl groups have received multiple complaints regarding  
12   the high cost for a weekend of waterfowl hunting, often from visiting family members, and  
13   **WHEREAS**, there are easy and practical methods to fix this situation, such as providing that the  
14   current 7-day non-resident small game license include waterfowl hunting, with an accompanying  
15   MI waterfowl license, or some other developed solution, and  
16   **WHEREAS**, the proposed solution does not add additional licenses and maintains the simplified  
17   structure of the most recent license package, and NOW,  
18   **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work  
19   with the MI DNR, state legislature and waterfowl conservation groups, to provide for a short  
20   term non-resident waterfowl license system; and  
21   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC explore and develop legislative changes to  
22   implement a short term non-resident waterfowl license system.

**Proposed Resolution #4**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Ken Dalton, Individual Member

MUCC Region: 8

Passed:

Title:           **MICHIGAN PHEASANT RELEASE FOR HUNTER RECRUITMENT**

1   **WHEREAS**, the current regulations state that pheasants not established in the wild (farmed) in  
2   the state may be released and shot on licensed preserves; and

3   **WHEREAS**, individuals may buy birds from licensed breeders of pheasants to release on their  
4   own private land to hunt as well, but are prohibited (with some exceptions as allowed by the land  
5   manager) from releasing ring-necked pheasants and other game birds on state-owned lands; and

6   **WHEREAS**, The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a conservation initiative to  
7   restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations and hunting opportunity on private  
8   and public lands; and

9   **WHEREAS**, Michigan DNR has discontinued its own pheasant breeding and release program;  
10   and

11   **WHEREAS**, there is a large segment of hunters who recall their first experience in hunting was  
12   through pheasant and other small game and wish to pass this experience on to generations to  
13   come; and

14   **WHEREAS**, the “Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment” initiative has a mission  
15   to recruit and retain our pheasant hunting heritage as many other states are already doing through  
16   release; and

17   **WHEREAS**, the desired outcome is to release pheasants on state game areas in order to recruit  
18   and retain small game hunters and provide opportunity for success because of the yearly decline  
19   in young hunters; and

20 **WHEREAS**, This is not a program to re-establish a pheasant population, this is strictly for  
21 hunter recruitment, retention and opportunity; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The Natural Resources Commission, in consultation with DNR biologists, would  
23 establish and oversee the source of pheasants and breeding standards (whether private breeders  
24 or DNR facilities are used), release guidelines (not to do it in an area of bird disease, only to  
25 release in well-established habitat on publicly-accessible lands, etc) and any other regulations or  
26 policy necessary; and

27 **WHEREAS**, there is a goal to establish a long-term, user-pay funding source through either the  
28 creation of a pheasant stamp or purchasing separate pheasant tags (as we do for deer and turkey);  
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, this investment will give opportunity and provide additional income to local game  
31 bird breeders, dog breeders, sporting good stores, restaurants, hotels, and many more. NOW,  
32 **THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work  
33 with the Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Natural  
34 Resources Commission (NRC) to support the Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter  
35 Recruitment with the mission, goals, and outcomes indicated.

**Proposed Resolution #5**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Fred Truschke, MUCC Conservation Policy Board; Tim Kobasic, MUCC  
Conservation Policy Board

MUCC Region: 2 and 3

Passed:

Title: **TREESTAND SAFETY**

1    **WHEREAS**, treestand falls are the top source of serious deer hunting injuries in the United  
2    States, with an estimated 5,600 reported injuries in 2015 by the National Electronic Injury  
3    Surveillance System (NEISS); and

4    **WHEREAS**, two men in different Michigan counties died on the same weekend in October,  
5    2016 from treestand falls; and

6    **WHEREAS**, the Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation conducted a study of 484 treestand  
7    falls from 2009-2015 in eight Midwest and Southeastern states (not including Michigan); and

8    **WHEREAS**, this study showed that 85% of falls occurred when the victim was not wearing a  
9    treestand harness; and

10   **WHEREAS**, of the 15% who were wearing a harness, in only one instance was the harness  
11   attached to the tree at the time of the fall; and

12   **WHEREAS**, falls occurred from all treestand types (32% loc-on, 24% climber, 20% ladder,  
13   19% homemade); and

14   **WHEREAS**, 92.6% of falls resulted in injury, while 7.6% resulted in death; and

15   **WHEREAS**, 42% of falls occurred on stand, while 58% occurred while climbing, descending,  
16   transferring or erecting; and

17   **WHEREAS**, The Treestand Manufacturer Association’s Treestand Safety Guidelines  
18   recommend always wearing a fall arrest system/full body harness, rather than a single-strap belt  
19   and chest harness. NOW,

20   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the  
21   Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Commission, the Tree Stand  
22   Safety Awareness Foundation and/or the Legislature or other interested partners in adopting  
23   regulations requiring treestand hunters to wear a fall arrest system/full-body harness while  
24   climbing, descending, transferring and on stand; and

25 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs use  
26 its communication assets to educate hunters about the risks of hunting from a treestand without a  
27 full body harness.

**Proposed Resolution #6**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Saginaw Field and Stream Club

MUCC Region: 6

Passed:

Title: **REINTRODUCTION OF LAKE HERRING (CISCO) IN SAGINAW BAY**

1 **WHEREAS**, Lake Herring (Cisco) were a native species in this region, and  
2 **WHEREAS**, Lake Herring (Cisco) died out in the Saginaw Bay, lower Lake Huron in the  
3 1950's mainly due to water pollution; and  
4 **WHEREAS**, the Lake Herring (Cisco) is a deeper and cooler water fish, and  
5 **WHEREAS**, the Lake Herring (Cisco) has it's own niche in the food Web, and  
6 **WHEREAS**, Lake Herring (Cisco) do not compete for the same food sources as Walleyes, and  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Lake Herring (Cisco) will provide another forage fish for the lower Lake  
8 Huron and Saginaw Bay; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, the Lake Herring (Cisco) will provide relief for the yellow perch, and  
10 **WHEREAS**, the discussion to reintroduce the Lake Herring (Cisco) for over 15 years, and  
11 **WHEREAS**, the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee endorses this. NOW,  
12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs, work with and  
13 urge the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and any other agency, committee or group  
14 to get the Lake Herring (Cisco) reintroduced into Saginaw Bay, Lower Lake Huron.

**Proposed Resolution #7**

**Submitted by:** Cedar Rod and Gun Club

**MUCC Region:** 3

**Proposed:** March 11, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **RESEARCH IMPACTING FISHERIES AND ANGLER EXPERIENCE**

1 **WHEREAS**, Access to public lands and waters and hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities  
2 is of paramount interest to the membership of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), as  
3 is the scientific management of our resources.

4 **WHEREAS**, a recent fisheries research project proposed by the Little River Band of the Ottawa  
5 Indians included the need for a temporary resistance board weir (RBW) on National Forest  
6 System lands in the Manistee River; and

7 **WHEREAS**, there was no analysis prior to the project development on the populations of  
8 sportfish that may be impacted by this RBW, which could impede natural reproduction and could  
9 contribute to the mortality of non-target species. There was also no analysis on the use of this  
10 stretch of river by anglers, commercial fishing guides, paddlers, or other recreational users,  
11 whose use may be impeded (whether actual or perceived) by the RBW resulting in a negative  
12 economic impact on the community; and

13 **WHEREAS**, While MUCC generally supports fisheries research to achieve management  
14 objectives, this Special Use Permit application deserves significant further analysis on the  
15 potential impacts of a resistance board weir (RBW) and possible alternatives before it should be  
16 approved.; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this example of research not considering the impact to non-target fisheries and  
18 angler recreation is only the most recent among others where the research biologists have not  
19 done a thorough analysis of recreational impacts or public scoping of their project prior to  
20 deciding a course of action for their study methodology; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the importance of the proposed study species versus other species cannot be  
22 overlooked when determining impact on lost license sales and fisherman hours on the affected  
23 waters.; and

24 **WHEREAS**, it becomes very important that the impact study includes the possible advantages  
25 versus the disadvantages to all parties involved, loss of license revenue, loss of outdoor  
26 opportunities, lost days that cannot be recovered ; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the MDNR should take an active role with USFS in conducting and analyzing the  
28 impact study and provide for public review. **NOW**,

29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work  
30 with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan Legislature if needed to  
31 implement a fisheries research policy that would:

- 32 • Engage sport fishing and conservation interests in scoping the needed research projects;
- 33 • Seek to avoid or reduce conflict with major seasonal runs of sport fish;
- 34 • Consider maintaining angler access to the maximum extent possible during the research  
35 period

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC oppose the future use of RBW for research  
37 purposes unless: 1) the project development has included public input from anglers and others  
38 who may be impacted by the study and 2) that the benefits of the research outweighs the impact  
39 that research may have on the local non-target fisheries populations and recreational users.

**Proposed Resolution #8**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President  
MUCC Region: 4

Passed: Region 4, February 19, 2017

Title: **“SURPLUS” STATE OF MICHIGAN-OWNED PUBLIC LAND DISPOSAL  
PROCESS**

1     **WHEREAS**, in 2011 Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) adopted a resolution which  
2     opposed Senate Bill 248 (Land Cap Bill), and  
3     **WHEREAS**, in 2012, SB 248 was signed into law by Governor Snyder with the commitment  
4     that a strategic land plan be developed within two years which included a process of identifying  
5     “surplus” or “excess” State lands, and  
6     **WHEREAS**, this [Public Land Management Strategy](#) was completed in July of 2013 by the  
7     Michigan Department of Natural Resources and presented to the State Legislature for approval,  
8     and  
9     **WHEREAS**, legislation which included approval of this Public Land Management Strategy was  
10    never bought out of House or Senate Committees for legislative consideration, and  
11    **WHEREAS**, Senate Bills 39 and 40 proposed in the 2015-2016 legislative session would have  
12    required that the DNR consider applications for land sales and exchanges which involved state-  
13    owned public lands which have not been previously determined to be “surplus” or “excess,” and  
14    **WHEREAS**, a public engagement process has traditionally been employed in prior DNR  
15    “surplus” land identification efforts, **NOW**  
16    **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)  
17    oppose any legislation or other DNR administrative activities which would allow for the sale or  
18    exchange of State of Michigan-owned or managed lands greater than 80 acres in size, or parcels  
19    which would restrict public riparian access without having been previously designated as  
20    “Excess” or “Surplus” through a transparent process which includes a local and regional  
21    Departmental review, as well as a public comment or engagement process.

**Proposed Resolution #9**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President

MUCC Region: 4

Passed: Region 4, February 19, 2017

Title: **UNFUNDED MANDATES ON THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

1 **WHEREAS**, recently introduced and passed legislation has required significant expenditures of  
2 Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding for new field responsibilities for  
3 which no funding has been provided, and

4 **WHEREAS**, one such example is House Bill 5275 (P.A. 288 of 2016) which requires that the  
5 DNR complete a comprehensive road and trail mapping effort of the 4.6 million acres currently  
6 under State of Michigan management, and

7 **WHEREAS**, this legislation alone will likely require costs well in excess of the \$500,000  
8 estimated in the legislation for which no funding was provided, and

9 **WHEREAS**, other recently proposed legislation such as Senate Bills 39 and 40 would have  
10 required significant expenditures of DNR staff time and field resources for land management,  
11 land sales and exchange activities which expand those currently performed for what would also  
12 be a reduced fee structure, and

13 **WHEREAS**, legislation of this type requires the use of staff time for biologists, foresters and  
14 technicians for activities which would be inadequately funded, potentially shifting these costs to  
15 budget sources which include fisheries and wildlife management dollars. NOW,

16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)  
17 oppose or seek to amend any legislation which requires the expenditure of Michigan Department  
18 of Natural Resources funds for tasks or functions which may result in a diversion of hunting and  
19 fishing license revenue or funding whose use may otherwise be restricted, and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any such legislation should include the appropriation of  
21 the necessary supplemental funding in an effort to avoid such a diversion before it would be  
22 supported by Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC).

**Proposed Resolution #10**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County

MUCC Region: 1

Passed:

Title: **BRINGING CERVID CARCASSES INTO MICHIGAN FROM OTHER STATES**

1 **WHEREAS**, chronic wasting disease, (CWD), has been discovered in some 23 States, 3  
2 Provinces and 1 Scandinavian country; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, this number has been increasing and the number changing every year; and  
4 **WHEREAS**, Michigan's current regulation prohibits whole cervid carcasses from being brought  
5 into the state from infected states and lists every state and province that has CWD, yet this list of  
6 CWD areas could change even before the Hunting Digest is published; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to simplify this regulation, increase penalties, and further reduce the  
8 chances of CWD or other diseases being brought into Michigan. NOW,  
9 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan adopt a stance that Minnesota, Montana and  
10 other states have adopted in that any cervid, (deer, moose, elk,...) carcass brought into Michigan  
11 (whether taken from a wild or captive population) be in the form of deboned meat, clean  
12 skullcap, finished taxidermy, and/or other parts not anticipated to carry CWD prions; and  
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Michigan Legislature work to increase the fines and  
14 penalties for violations of this whole carcass prohibition; and  
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and other  
16 federal agencies as necessary, with support from the Michigan delegation of U.S. Senators and  
17 U.S. Representatives, work to make this a federal regulation.

**Proposed Resolution #10**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Michigan State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association

MUCC Region: 9

Passed:

Title: **CAPTIVE CERVID REGULATION REFORM**

1 **WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting Disease poses an existential threat to Michigan’s deer herd and  
2 Michigan deer hunting.

3 **WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting Disease, if it becomes established in the wild herd, can not be  
4 eliminated using any currently known methods.

5 **WHEREAS**, Two captive cervid facilities in Michigan have contracted Chronic Wasting  
6 Disease

7 **WHEREAS**, there is a real threat of disease transmission if captive and wild deer can comingle  
8 at a captive cervid facility fenceline.

9 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing investigation into a Mecosta county captive cervid facility has exposed  
10 gaps in the current captive Cervid regulations, enforcement process, and funding of necessary  
11 enforcement and disease control. NOW,

12 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with  
13 the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Michigan Department of  
14 Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Quality Deer Management  
15 Association, and other interested parties, to reform captive cervid facility regulations to reduce  
16 the chance of Chronic Wasting Disease transmission between captive cervid facilities and the  
17 wild deer herd. These regulatory reforms should include, but not be limited to:

- 18
- establishing double fencing to reduce opportunities for transmission through the fence,

- 19 • a mandatory supervised testing process to eliminate opportunities for illegal substitution
- 20 of deer for testing from outside the facility,
- 21 • a state funding mechanism that would provide adequate funding for Chronic Wasting
- 22 Disease surveillance and response both inside and outside of captive cervid facilities,
- 23 • improved cervid facility record keeping requirements,
- 24 • non removable cervid tagging,
- 25 • oversight of cervid transportation,
- 26 • a 30-day maximum period for depopulating an infected facility once the decision has
- 27 been made to do so, and
- 28 • improved enforcement mechanisms.

**Proposed Resolution #12**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: South Kent Sportsman’s Club

MUCC Region: 5

Passed:

Title: **SUPPRESSOR TAX ELIMINATION**

1 **WHEREAS**, The use of suppressors for the taking of game was approved through the Natural  
2 Resources Commission (NRC) in 2016; and

3 **WHEREAS**, In certain situations, the sound of gun fire can cause nuisance noise complaints;  
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, Gun fire has been proven to cause hearing loss; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Suppressors typically reduce the sound of gun shots by 20-35 decibels, roughly the  
7 same as your typical ear muffs/plugs; and

8 **WHEREAS**, As suppressors are currently regulated, you are required to pay an extra federal tax  
9 to protect your hearing while exercising rights protected through our second amendment

10 **WHEREAS**, There are currently 42 states where the private ownership of suppressors is legal.

11 NOW,

12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That MUCC works with the Michigan delegation of U.S.

13 Senators and U.S. Representatives to remove regulations for suppressors from the National

14 Firearms Act of 1934; and

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That MUCC work with our U.S. and state legislature to allow

16 the purchase of a suppressor to follow the same guidelines currently in place to purchase

17 firearms through the NICS (National Instant Criminal Background Check System) program.

1

**Proposed Resolution #13**

**Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region 8 Policy Board

MUCC Region: 8

Passed:

Title: **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FREE LICENSES**

1 **WHEREAS**, the citizen-initiated 2014 Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act gave our

2 active duty military members free licenses, and

3 **WHEREAS**, the law was overturned by a judge because this clause seemed unrelated to the rest

4 of the law and active military lost this benefit, and

5 **WHEREAS**, SB 1187 of 2016 reestablished the rest of the components of the Scientific Fish and

6 Wildlife Conservation Act, and

7 **WHEREAS**, active duty military members would have minimal leave time to hunt or fish.

8 NOW,

9 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with

10 the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to restore the free

11 licenses to the active duty military. That is a small price to give them for what they do for us.

