

DRAFT AGENDA



Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Conservation Policy Board Meeting

101 Recreation Ave. - Ewart MI 49631

Saturday, August 16, 2025

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 (Eric Braden), Wildlife (Leonard Shaner), Parks, Recreation and Trails (VACANT), Shooting/Ranges (VACANT)
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.	Approval of Agenda Discussion of Minutes: May 31, 2025 Meeting Approval of Minutes: May 31, 2025 Meeting <i>All</i>
11:28 a.m.	Justin Tomei, MUCC Resolution Clean-Up Process
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	BREAK-Lunch Available
12:35 p.m.	Policy Committee Reports
12:45 p.m.	<u>Emergency and Proposed Resolution Discussion</u> <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 <u>Proposed Policy Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Resolution #A: Bobcat Calling at Night • Proposed Resolution #B: Bear Trapping • Proposed Resolution #C: Federal Woodcock Banding <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i> <u>Motions that are in order:</u> <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)	<i>Policy Updates</i> <i>MUCC Staff</i>
2:05 p.m.	Executive Board Report <i>Amy Trotter</i>
2:25 p.m.	Moment for the Mission <i>Amy Trotter</i>
2:30 p.m.	Announcement of Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · December 6, Virtual via Zoom Adjourn <i>Vice President Steve Dey</i>

DRAFT May 31, 2025 CPB Meeting Minutes

Vice President Dey called the meeting to order at 10:46 am

Vice President Dey provided the welcoming remarks.

George Lindquist spoke on the moose study.

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.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM December 7, 2024 MEETING. Jerry Kiel(Steven Lomonaco)
Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA Jack Lehto(Steve Lomonaco) Motion approved unanimously.

MUCC Staff provided policy updates.

Amy Trotter gave the Executive Board Report.

Committee Reports

Wildlife: Reviewed 2 of the three resolutions, have recommendations to provide.

Fisheries: Reviewed all three resolutions, will provide comments.

Shooting: No report.

Education: Want to add rec safety programs to youth camp.

Break for Lunch 11:58 pm

Returned from Lunch at 12:31 pm

Resolutions

MOTION TO BRING PROPOSED RESOLUTION #A, B, C TO THE FLOOR Jack Lehto(Mark Baldwin)

Proposed Resolution #A

The author spoke on the resolution.

Discussion on the resolution.

MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION On line 21 after should add: “work with the warmwater citizens fishery advisory committee and to” and line 23 delete “southern” Eric Braden(George Lindquist)
Motion to adopt amendment carries unanimously.

MOTION TO MOVE TO CONVENTION AS AMENDED Jack Lehto(Taylor Renton) Motion carries unanimously.

Proposed Resolution #B

The author spoke on the resolution.

Discussion on Resolution

MOTION TO AMEND On line 12 delete "peer-reviewed" George Lindquist(Tim Markham)

Motion to amend amendment to add "data," before science Taylor Renton(Tim Markham) Motion to adopt amendment to the amendment carries unanimously.

Motion to adopt the amendment as amended carries unanimously.

MOTION TO AMEND On line 1 replace "staff must decide on" with "hears" and on lines 12 and 16 delete the word "protection" replace with "conservation" Eric Braden(Erik Schnelle) Motion to adopt the amendment carries unanimously.

MOTION TO SEND RESOLUTION BACK TO THE WRITER Zach Snyder(Taylor Renton) Motion Carries.

Proposed Resolution #C

Discussion on Resolution

MOTION TO DISCARD AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION Jane Finnerty(Zach Snyder) Motion Carries Unanimously

Amy Trotter gave the Moment for the Mission.

Announcement of next meeting, August 16, 2025, MTPCA Convention Evart, MI.

Motion to adjourn Mark Baldwin(Jerry Kiel)

Meeting Adjourned 1:34 p.m.

Proposed Resolution #A
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Carl Roeller, MTPCA

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Support of hunting bobcats at night with calling methods

1. **WHEREAS:** MUCC has a long-standing position of opening opportunities for hunters if
2. they are not to the detriment of the resource. Allowing hunters more opportunities or
3. abilities to get more hunters involved as well and making sure the population and
4. ecosystem of our great state is not compromised, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** Michigan currently has 57 counties where bobcats can be harvested. The
6. best available data collected by the Department of Natural Resource (DNR), shows
7. bobcat populations are on the rise. The numbers of harvested bobcats, numbers have
8. been steady, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** Bobcats continue to move farther south within the state, and the Michigan
10. Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in early 2022 expanded its bobcat management
11. units to include nine new counties in southern Michigan. Authorizing an expansion of
12. bobcat take into places where it has historically not been permitted, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** All four surrounding states (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin) have
14. now either a season or has put a season into place to allow for hunting/ trapping of
15. bobcats. Of these four states, Illinois is the only one currently that allows nighttime
16. hunting for bobcats, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** The current harvest tags for bobcats allow one bobcat to be taken in either
18. peninsula, and a second tag to only be allowed in the upper peninsula. With new
19. counties in the lower looking to be added in the near future, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** The DNR biologists are very open to allowing this additional opportunity.
21. They have stated that they will be getting new ways to track and better estimate the
22. current population allowing them to help watch the rise of the bobcats. In turn, also
23. watch for potential downfalls. They have also stated that there are measures in place to
24. look at this every year to make sure that the population is not affected. Currently, the

25. bobcat population is monitored and controlled by season date lengths ranging from 10
26. days to two whole months for both hunting and for trapping, NOW;
27. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan united conservation club supports
28. nighttime bobcat hunting with calling methods.

Proposed Resolution #B
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MTPCA

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Bear Trapping

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan's overall black bear population has increased 29% from 2012-
2. 2023 with the lower peninsula growing 37% during the same time frame as part of a
3. 160% increase in the lower peninsula since 1992, which has created a population
4. distribution increase of 74% in the lower peninsula, resulting in a 300% increase in
5. lower peninsula activity reports since 2012 (MDNR, Norton, 2023), and;
6. **WHEREAS:** There has been a 32% DECREASE in bear hunting licenses purchased
7. during the same period (MDNR, Norton, 2023), and;
8. **WHEREAS:** The use of cable traps (foothold cable restraint) or cage-type live traps are
9. acceptable means of take currently in use for bear by Michigan's Department of Natural
10. Resources, many other government agencies, AND any licensed trapper in the state of
11. Maine, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** Trapping of bear provides opportunity for another entire segment of
13. Michigan hunters and trappers to participate in management of Michigan's largest
14. furbearer, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Trapping also provides much better ability for extreme selectivity and the
16. ability to target SPECIFIC animals for management purposes, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** Increased participation opportunity, which in turn fuels the reciprocal
18. causation of the consumptive sportsperson / resource relationship, is vital to the health
19. of our natural resources, NOW;
20. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC will support the implementation of the
21. trapping of black bears with foothold cable restraints and/or cage type live traps.

Proposed Resolution #C
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Abraham Downer, Individual Member

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Resolution to direct MUCC staff to lobby against the defunding of the United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory

1. **WHEREAS:** the 2026 proposed federal budget includes cuts that would eliminate the
2. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), which is administered under the Department of the
3. Interior's United States Geological Survey (USGS), and;
4. **WHEREAS:** the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits the killing, capturing,
5. selling, and trading of migratory birds and, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** the BBL issues permits that allow individuals and state agencies to
7. capture and band migratory bird species and, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** eliminating the BBL would result in no new banding permits to be issued to
9. the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and;
10. **WHEREAS:** the MDNR, Wildlife Division, requires a permit from the USGS BBL to
11. band migratory bird species in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** The MDNR relies on information from the USGS BBL to facilitate effective
13. bird management and conservation, set bag limits for hunting seasons, understand
14. population dynamics, understand species distribution and migration corridors, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** the MDNR and BBL incur little cost for these programs based on the high
16. number of volunteers that are sub-permitted either under a MDNR biologist that holds
17. the master permit or the BBL directly, and;
18. **WHEREAS:** the USGS BBL is staffed by only about 15 employees, but have thousands
19. of volunteer banders, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** many migratory bird species, including game bird species, have been
21. facing population declines and habitat loss, and;

22. **WHEREAS:** residents and visitors of Michigan participate in a wide range of
23. recreational activities that revolve around migratory birds such as hunting, birding, and
24. research, and;
25. **WHEREAS:** there are many non-profits and groups operating in the State of Michigan
26. with direct interest in maintaining stable and sustainable populations of migratory bird
27. species, and;
28. **WHEREAS:** MUCC supports the utilizing “principles of sound scientific management” in
29. making decisions regarding the taking of game and to accomplish this supports the
30. gathering of the best available data for biologists to use. (i.e. Surveys, banding,
31. experiments, etc.), NOW;
32. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
33. support and advocate that the Department of the Interior cease any action that would
34. defund the USGS BBL.