

Milestones



Johnny Morris Institute of
Fisheries, Wetlands & Aquatic Systems
University of Missouri



MISSOURI
CONSERVATION
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

Five years ago: Need for **rebuilding the fisheries program** at the University of Missouri (MU) identified by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Conservation Commission

- o MU, MDC and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) started working on a **solution**
- o MCHF would hold **endowment** to fund professors at MU

Potential donors challenged group to **think beyond** only hiring professors

Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences concept developed with four major components:

- o Faculty and Staff
- o Research
- o Career Pathways and Workforce Development
- o Public Policy

Feasibility study funding approved by MCHF Board of Directors and was completed August 2021 confirming interest and a need to fund an Institute for the future of clean water and conservation

Study determined **Institute needed to have a broader reach**, resulting in adding “Wetlands” to the name of the Institute

Phase 1 of campaign began in January 2022 with goal of **\$10 million**; with overall goal of establishing a **\$30 million endowment in 10 years** to fund Institute in perpetuity

Case for Support finalized April 2022 in collaboration with MCHF, MU and MDC



June 2022: **\$5.5 million raised toward Phase 1 goal**

- o \$1 million lead gift from MDC
- o \$3 million from MU
- o 100% of MCHF Board of Directors financially committed to Institute

MDC pledged a \$1.5 million match in June 2022

Petitioned U.S. Senator Roy Blunt for federal funding in the amount of \$10 million for the Institute

Pending life estate donation estimated at \$5.3 million

Ducks Unlimited committed to help fund research

Significant pledges from John L. Morris, Chip and Teresa McGeehan and other private donors

MCHF Board member initiated \$250,000 matching gift challenge

March 2023: Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems launched after \$12 million raised

Sept. 2023: Institute renamed to Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems