



Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
Ohio Department Natural Resources
Division of Real Estate and Land Management
2045 Morse Road
C-4, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

August 24, 2009

Re: Cleveland Rowing Foundation

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cleveland Scholastic Rowing Association (CSRA) allows high school age rowers, both men and women, to pursue the sport in the Greater Cleveland Area. Rowers, who are not affiliated with a specific high school crew team, can become members of CSRA. As a result, the team has rowers from all over the Cleveland area, ranging from Hudson to Cleveland and Westlake to Solon. The CSRA team has been in existence for more than ten years, and has provided an athletic outlet for students during that time. The team practices three or four times a week on the Cuyahoga River during both Fall and Spring seasons. It should also be recognized that all of the graduating students have gone on to college, many in Ohio.

During its existence, CSRA has been under the umbrella of the Cleveland Rowing Foundation (CRF). The team has a number of boats, called "shells", which it stores in a boathouse on the banks of the Cuyahoga River. As rowing has grown in Cleveland, the boathouse is at full capacity. CRF currently rents the property from Forest City, but only on a year to year basis.

CRF is engaged in finding a permanent home for rowing, as well as other water activities. A site has been found for such permanent home, namely, the former Commodore Club, located on the banks of the Cuyahoga. This site would allow rowing to continue to grow in Cleveland, and presents an extraordinary opportunity to increase use of the Cuyahoga for recreational purposes.

We strongly support CRF's efforts to obtain this site, and CRF's application for the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, with assistance from the Trust for Public Land.

Sincerely,

Cleveland Scholastic Rowing Association

Jay F. Moldovanyi, President

David Yormick, Head Coach