

Tasiilaq Community Kayak Project – Returning Report.

2010 Phase of the project.

Unfortunately, due to unexpected work and personal commitments Les Kirkpatrick, my kayak coach, was forced to withdraw at the last minute. This left a huge gap in the whole project – although I was in Greenland for the summer I had other commitments.

Other suitable folk were hastily contacted, however they are in great demand and given the short notice, all had work commitments they were unable to cancel. I continued until the last possible moment to find a replacement, but eventually left for Greenland knowing we had no one. There was however a glimmer of hope - Mark Tozer, who is a L5 sea coach was out with me in July/August, helping me run a separate expedition. I planned to free up some of our time so Mark and I could replace Les and take local folk out.

In the end the time slot we made and had available did not coincide with suitable weather conditions and the high activity/profile event I had intended didn't take place. This was an important factor - as good photos and reports would help raise the profile and support for 2011 and onwards. This was a great disappointment to me, although, to be honest the harbour team were so busy with a ship and supplies coming in at that time, that, to some extent they were relieved.

Mark and I spent time re looking at the risk assessment and area of operation. I was also able to introduce Mark to many local contacts and bring him up to date on the project.

Mark is keen on being involved and hopes to bring a group of his university students out next summer and incorporate work/contact with the community into part of his student's expedition/Greenland experience.

Another suitable instructor is John Wienstock. John would have taken Les's place this summer, but by the time Les pulled out it was too short notice. John will be going out next summer to work on the project.

To make sure this is an event next summer – I am putting aside time from my other expedition commitments to work directly with the local community.

Thanks for your approval to roll funding over to 2011. A report and photos will be sent in on our return.

Martin Rickard.

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