

## Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association 2023 Presidents Report

By: Spencer Edelman

The 2023 Yukon River Quest, although a smaller race compared to Pre-Covid numbers, ran successfully. What made the race successful? 1) we ran a fiscally correct race based on our numbers (did not lose our shirts); 2) Those who participated in our survey indicated that the race ran well; 3) Our partners in the race (Coal Mine, First Nations etc.) did not take issue with the race as they have in the past; and finally 4) our race team held together and although there were some racers in distress, it got figured out and resolved. These are the most important points I feel make for a successful race. Granted all of them have areas we may need policies developed or roadmaps for in the future.

As I leave the Board for at least the next year, here are some thoughts and notes on areas I have taken care of, or on new potential partnerships that the new board should be aware of:

- 1) For the last few years, I have taken care of making sure the three most impacted First Nations are aware of our presence in their communities and are ok with us (LSCFN, SFN, TH). This is important and needs to be continued (this is the reason we were ok to run during the flood). First Nation communities are accessing more money for their Game Guardian Programs and I think these are the people who could be responsible eventually for all of our racer support north of Laberge in the future.
- 2) Potential of using the Coffee Creek site again in the future – As our racer Survey indicated, there is support for going back to a site like coffee creek for many reasons, including perceived safety. To that end, Coffee Creek may be supportive of this. So the new board is aware, with the support we provided (food, bogs, wake ups, setting up shaded areas etc.), it was a nightmare to run. Volunteers vowed to never come back, the staff from Coffee Creek were mixed in messaging about how we can or cant come back etc.
- 3) New Revenue streams. The Board in the past, avoided all “handouts” etc. as it was a value for them to run entirely on their own generated money. That said, as someone who sat on Lotteries (one of a few options), there are MANY organizations who access funds yearly and can hire help consistently as such. With the success of our Lotteries application, it is my understanding that if the new board applies again next fall and is successful... YRMPA may be eligible to be put on a three year funding agreement.

Thank you,

Spencer Edelman  
Acting President  
Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association