

No clear resolution on Bala Falls issue

Karen Longwell

August 24, 2010

Those looking for clear Township opposition on the Bala Falls hydroelectric project issue didn't get it at Tuesday's Muskoka Lakes council meeting.

Public interest in the issue was so high the meeting had to be moved to the Port Carling community centre because the council chamber quickly overflowed.

Several people spoke about the project including Swift River Energy Limited Bala Falls project manager Karen McGhee.

McGhee asked councillors not to reverse a 2008 resolution, which supports, in principal, the hydroelectric project at the north falls on district land, if the project meets environmental screening approvals.

Opponents to the project asked councillors to listen to the will of the Bala community and pass a motion to oppose the project.

Council passed a resolution to reaffirm their request for an environmental screening elevation or bump up. Council wants more answers on the project and will wait for the Ministry of Environment to complete the environmental screening process. An economic impact study is expected to be complete by the end of September.

For more on this story see the Weekender.



BALA FALLS. Swift River Energy Limited Bala Falls project manager Karen McGhee speaks during a Muskoka Lakes council meeting at the Port Carling Community Centre on Aug. 24. *Karen Longwell*