

# NEWS



Gary Schiffmann, left, and Glenn Schiffmann, owner of Composite Panel Systems in Eagle River, hold the two awards they received at the 2014 Composites and Advanced Materials Expo. —Staff Photos By GARY RIDDERBUSCH

## Three Lakes to rebid Maple Lake Dam work

By BREANNA NORTON  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Three Lakes Town Board rejected all current bids for Maple Lake Dam repairs, instead choosing to rebid the project in February 2015 at its meeting last week.

A representative from MSA Professionals presented to the board a summary of the bids and the company's recommendations on the town's next step forward. The bids ranged from \$115,599 to \$204,625, with IEI bidding the lowest. MSA originally estimated the project would take around \$55,000. MSA recommended either accepting a bid or waiting to rebid.

Considering the difference between the lowest bid and MSA's estimate, MSA now projects the cost to be closer to \$115,000 than \$55,000.

There are a handful of explanations as to the high bids for the project. First, MSA suggested it underestimated the cost of dewatering around the dam due to the inherent liability of the project. The estimate for mobilization and traffic control also came in higher than expected.

The higher estimates may also be due in part to the timing of the bid requests, which happened last month. MSA recommended waiting until the weather begins warming to rebid in the hopes of lowering costs.

A number of plan changes could be put in place as well that may affect prices, accord-

ing to MSA. For example, the current plan calls for the structure to be cast on site — or cast in place — but there may be a cost savings to doing part of the work off-site where some of the structure is precast in a controlled environment.

MSA suggested that if the town makes the necessary changes to the plan, then perhaps the contractors will be more competitive, particularly as February is the time of year they will be looking to fill their calendars.

In other business, the board considered accepting adjusted lot surveys for property located at 8825 Highway X. The survey did not make any new lots, it adjusted a single lot line. The board approved the motion.

In town shop updates, Bryan Cirks of the town crew suggested to the board scheduling McNaughton inmates for two weeks of work release to aid the shop in projects throughout Three Lakes. He said it would cost the town \$1,400 for 12 inmates.

Supervisors would accompany the inmates and McNaughton would provide their own chain saws and chippers. Cirks suggested the inmates could work on tree clean-up at Old Military Road this summer. The town board approved the recommendation.

Cirks also updated the board on Town Road 1 improvements.

## New foundation hailed

Composite Panel Systems shares the stage with NASA, Boeing

By GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
NEWS-REVIEW EDITOR

The Epitome Composite Walls from Composite Panel Systems in Eagle River — a high-performance, engineered replacement for poured concrete walls — recently received two prestigious industry awards.

One award was for innovation and the other for market growth potential alongside two other industry giants, NASA and Boeing.

The awards were presented Composite Panel Systems owner Glenn Schiffmann at the 2014 Composites and Advanced Materials Expo (CAMX) in Orlando, Fla.

The CAMX Steering Committee awarded Composite Panel Systems with the first-ever Unsurpassed Innovation CAMX Award. In addition, the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) awarded Composite Panel Systems with an Award for Composites Excellence (ACE) in the Infinite Possibility for Market Growth category.

This is the first time one company alone has received two such significant awards in the composites industry.

Schiffmann was humbled by the recognition and credits his father's aviation experience and his own building background for the invention of this revolutionary new composite foundation.

"We like to relive the day my dad walked in our conference room with the very first prototype, it wasn't pretty but it was exciting and we really didn't know what we had until we started to explore the options for this foundation product. Only then did we know we were onto something big," said Schiffmann.

The two awards confirmed they were on the right track and making headway in the development of a high-performance alternative for poured concrete walls.

"We're very happy and very excited to be recognized as an industry leader in composite innovation," said Schiffmann.

The recognition also put Epitome Composite Walls from Composite Panel Systems on the national map when it comes to building innovations.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the opportunity this represents for Composite Panel Systems and helping us with our growth," said Schiffmann. "We are excited to start distributing and installing our foundation product throughout the basement belt of North America," he added.

Tom Dobbins, president of ACMA, presented Composite Panel Systems with the Unsurpassed Innovation CAMX Award for its Epitome Quality Foundation Walls.

"It's wonderful to see such amazing projects honored at the inaugural CAMX event," said Dobbins.

The Unsurpassed Innovation Award honors the composites product that demonstrates a novel design incorporating low-cost materials for high-volume applications, with high-performance applications/low-volume materials — and the potential to significantly impact existing markets or open new markets.

Dobbins also presented Composite Panel Systems with the ACE Award for its Epitome Composite Walls.

"Every year, I'm so impressed by the talent and creativity that our ACE Awards winners possess," said Dobbins. "I love to see how the members of our industry continue to push the boundaries and grow the industry through these amazing projects, and this year's winner, Composite Panel Systems, takes composites to uncharted territory."

The Infinite Possibility for Market Growth Award honors the composites product that demonstrates the potential to significantly increase the use of composites in existing markets or generate the greatest impact to open new and emerging markets for composites.



An employee at Composite Panel Systems cuts an Epitome Composite Foundation Wall.

"All of our CAMX Awards entrants set a high bar," said Gregg Balko, CEO of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE). "Composite Panel Systems should feel very proud of their accomplishments and we are honored to present them this well deserved award."

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**About Epitome walls**  
Epitome Composite Walls are a cutting-edge alternative to concrete foundation walls, according to Schiffmann.

"They are an innovative, structurally superior, highly-insulated, fire- and water-resistive panel that incorporates nominally sized studs, 16 inches on

center, a vapor barrier, double-lapped top plate and a continuous R-16.5 insulation value in a single construct," said Schiffmann.

Use of the 7-inch-thick panelized Epitome Foundation Walls versus a comparably-constructed concrete wall means that an average basement would realize nearly 100 square feet more of liveable space.

The panels are manufactured in Washington Court House, Ohio, and delivered by truck to Eagle River where they are cut and prepared for the building site.

"Once the site is prepared and the footing set, the foundation can be installed in as little as three hours and offers homeowners more usable damp-free and mold-resistant livable square footage in the lower level," said Schiffmann.

Schiffman said he anticipates an Eagle River facility, along with several other facilities across the country, and looks forward to building thousands of composite foundations a year.

"We believe the Epitome Foundation Walls will shape the future of building and these two awards will help us launch our dream," said Schiffman.

Entries were judged on their concept and design, value, impact, production and delivery and collaboration. The CAMX Awards were sponsored by Ashland Inc.

CAMX was a new composites trade show jointly hosted by ACMA and SAMPE. It was held Oct. 13-16 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

## Pines announces tours for grades 7-12 proposal

People interested in learning more about the seventh-through 12th-grade restructuring plan in the Northland Pines School District can attend any of four upcoming high school tours, according to District Administrator Mike Richie.

"Parents and community members are highly encouraged to come tour the high school while students are present to better understand the 7-12 restructuring plan," said Richie.

The district has a committee studying the implications and accessibility to create a seventh-through 12th-grade student body at the high school starting with the 2015-16 school year.

The plan has not been

finalized nor has it been presented to the school board for final action, but Richie is offering the tours of the high school for community members to learn more about the proposal.

The four tour dates are: Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m.; Monday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m.; and Monday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m.

Those unable to attend one of the above tours but would like to set up a private or group tour can contact Richie or high school Principal Jim Brewer.

Richie can be contacted at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us or (715) 479-6487, option 1, extension 1. Principal Brewer can be contacted at jbrewer@npsd.k12.wi.us or 479-4473.

## City eyes ATV rules Nov. 13

The Eagle River City Council has postponed its meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11, to Thursday, Nov. 13, due to the poor weather conditions Tuesday. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

The agenda includes discussion and possible adoption of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) ordinance that would allow ATVs on some city streets and trail designations within the city.

The ordinance also would designate the area from Dyer Road running parallel with the bike trail on the railroad right-of-way to Highway 70 as an official ATV trail within the railroad right-of-way designated snowmobile trail.

The ordinance calls on the city to develop an ATV trail extension, if possible, further south from Dyer Road to the town of Lincoln.

The ordinance also proposes to designate the existing snowmobile trail as an ATV trail from Railroad Street north to the Tsevas property on city-owned land

and request Vilas County to allow ATV travel on County Highway G from Adams Road to Highway 45.

Additionally, the ordinance requests Vilas County, through the Forestry Department, to apply for grants.

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Glenn Schiffmann and a Composite Panel Systems employee load an Epitome Composite Foundation Wall on a truck, ready for delivery.

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