DNR Regulates Disposal of Waste Tires

- Pose environmental, health and safety hazard
  - Ugly
  - Breeding grounds for Mosquitoes & diseases (West Nile Virus)
  - Fires
Older History – 1980’s

- 15-20 million tires stockpiled all over the state
  - Many landfills had stopped accepting tires
  - If accepted, charged a fee
  - Those stockpiling believed tires would increase in value over time
Tire Stockpiles
Not a Major Concern

- Other issues more pressing
- Closing hundreds of small unlined landfills
- Many sites with groundwater contamination
What does every good legislator need to get a bill passed?

- A crisis
No Problem!!
Somerset Tire Fire

- NW Wisconsin – St. Croix County
- October 1986
- Millions of tires burned
- Fire lasted for a week
1988 - A Bill Was Passed

- Waste Tire Removal and Recovery Program
  - Money and positions
  - $2 per tire upon registering ($10 per vehicle)
DNR Provided Grants

- Established an infrastructure
  - to collect and process tires and
  - to establish end-use markets

- Almost all the tires processed into fuel
  - used for generating energy or electricity at industries
Tire Program 1990 to 1997

- DNR cleaned up 12 M tires at 162 sites
- Private companies - 4 M tires at 408 sites

Funding for program ended in 1997
No More Crisis
Vehicle Environmental Impact Fee
Created in 1997

- 1997 - $5 per vehicle fee
- 1999 - increased to $6
- 2001 - increased to $9

$ went to Remediation & Redevelopment Program until July 2011
Fee Switched to DOT

- $9 Vehicle Env. Impact Fee ended 2011
- Increased DOT’s existing vehicle title fee by $9 (gets deposited in the transportation fund)
- $10 M per year
Scrap-Tire Markets Have Changed

- 1997 – 95% for energy recovery
- 2006 – 50% for energy recovery
Recent Events

Liberty contacted DNR in Nov. 2011
- Markets drying up
- Asked permission to dispose of tires in landfills

DNR contacted other states
- Some states with similar market problems
- Others have found various uses
Recent Events (Cont.)

DNR met with Liberty Tire in Jan. 2012

- Discussed market options
  - Tire derived fuel
  - Tire derived aggregate in engineering applications
  - Rubberized asphalt
  - Ground rubber – mulch/landscaping/playgrounds

- Recommended meeting with UW - Modified Asphalt Research Center (MARC)
Rubberized Asphalt Workshop

- Workshop held Aug. 15, 2012
- UW Modified Asphalt Research Center
  - Proposed follow-up meeting with DOT – show feasibility of using ground tire rubber in asphalt
  - DOT responded they already support this
  - Waiting for vote by AASHTO
    (American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials)
DNR Priorities

- Low priority since Tire Program ended
- Paying more attention recently
  - More stockpiles
  - More in ditches
- Good area for Council on Recycling to consider
- Avoid repeating the cycle
Questions?

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Watertown Photos by Mark W. Hintz
Somerset Photos from DNR Files