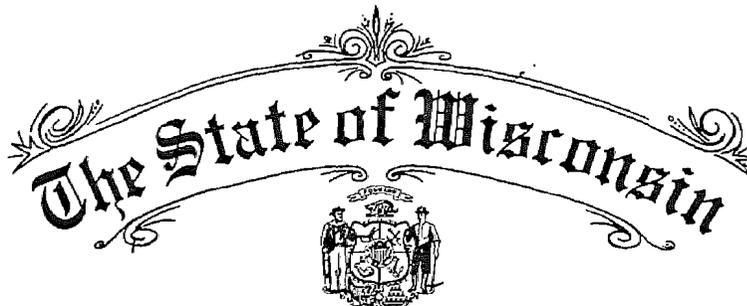


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SEP 28 1987

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER #24

CREATING THE GOVERNOR'S CLEAN WATER FUND TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, wastewater pollution abatement is a state and national priority with substantial public benefits; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments have spent over \$2.2 billion for municipal wastewater pollution abatement in Wisconsin during the last decade; and

WHEREAS, state pollution abatement spending for debt service is over \$75 million GPR annually; and

WHEREAS, the original goals of the Wisconsin Fund pollution abatement grant program have been achieved with nearly 95 percent of Wisconsin's point source dischargers meeting state and federal water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, pollution abatement spending by local governments will continue to be significant because of community growth, treatment plant deterioration, new pollution control standards, abatement of toxic pollutants, state groundwater control legislation, and unsewered communities with failing septic systems; and

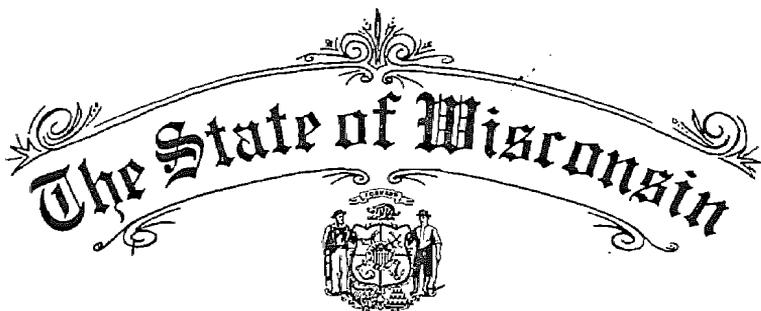
WHEREAS, some communities have not yet met state and federal water quality goals; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act has significantly changed the federal pollution abatement aid role by phasing out federal construction grants by 1990, replacing grants with a state revolving loan fund, and discontinuing direct financial assistance to local governments; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin needs to examine the problem of financing sewage treatment facilities in light of changed and declining federal aid, attainment of Clean Water Act goals, and significant future construction needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Establish the Clean Water Fund Task Force with a membership determined and appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure.
2. Direct the task force to recommend policies to guide state assistance to local governments for municipal wastewater pollution abatement.
3. Direct the task force to present the Governor with findings and recommendations by December 31, 1987.
4. Direct the task force to examine the following questions:
 - a. How should the state provide pollution abatement assistance to local governments? Should assistance be provided as part of the new federal loan program or a separate program?
 - b. What level of state spending for municipal wastewater pollution abatement aids, including bonding and debt service, can the state afford considering state pollution abatement needs and the state's financial condition?
 - c. What local wastewater pollution abatement costs (such as costs for maintaining compliance with discharge permits, meeting new



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

and changed discharge limits, and accommodating local growth) should be eligible for state assistance? Should the state aid the construction of collection systems in unsewered communities and, if so, under what conditions?

- d. What level of state assistance should be provided for projects considering the category of project, the level of public benefit and local conditions?
 - e. How should the state set priorities for funding projects? Should the federal priority list be used or changed? What factors, such as new water quality standards and cost effectiveness, should be considered? How should the state balance water quality priorities with local readiness to construct?
 - f. How should the Wisconsin Fund grant program be completed and any new program started?
5. Direct the task force to develop recommendations with several constraints in mind:
- a. State spending should be related to state benefits. The original Wisconsin Fund was created as a water pollution abatement program rather than a local aid program. This emphasis should continue in a new program.
 - b. State resources are limited. Current debt service for Wisconsin Fund and combined sewer overflow bonds is about \$75 million annually. Recommendations for continued state aid should keep spending at affordable levels.
6. Direct the Secretary of the Department of Administration, pursuant to section 20.505(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, to provide the task force with sums of money necessary and proper for legitimate travel and operating expenses.
7. Direct the Secretary of the Department of Administration to provide for staff and administrative support for the Commission.
8. Request the Department of Natural Resources to provide technical information and assistance to the commission, as needed.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-second day of September in the year one thousand nine hundred eighty-seven.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tommy G. Thompson".
TOMMY G. THOMPSON

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Douglas L. Follette".
DOUGLAS L. FOLLETTE
Secretary of State