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Public denied a voice in woods decision

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Once again we're confronted with a problem of democracy here in our dual-municipality community made up of Indiana Borough and White Township. The problem is top-down government evidenced by the township supervisors excluding stakeholders and others of standing from participating in the formation of a plan dealing with the use and management of the White's Woods Nature Center.

Not only have members of the public been denied a voice in its formation, access to information about the supervisors' intentions and how and when their decisions were made has been delayed or the blocked altogether. This is not how Lincoln's government of, by and for the people is meant to

operate. His concept of democracy entails bottom-up policy making with public participation, with the public being informed, with the assurance that results will deliver policies and programs within the public interest.

In contrast, the township supervisors' top-down approach is more like government on the people, over, above, or atop the people, invariably resulting in outcomes against the peoples' interests.

Even though we're faced with this undemocratic track record, there is cause for optimism due to the promise of two sound, sturdy pillars supporting our system of government: rule of law and oath of office.

According to the former, the citizenry is to be ruled by the rule of law, not the rule of lawyers, not the rule of rule-makers and not even the rule of rulers. Like the rest of us, these three parties are all subject to the rule of law and must act accordingly. In accordance with that second pillar, when taking office, our representatives commit to upholding the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, plus all the rules and regulations, codes and ordinances, statutes and resolutions thereof, along with all the rules and regulations, etc., of their local jurisdiction, so help them God.

So help them, God. Help your servants honor the pledge they made to you when entering public office. Amen.

Tom Miller

Indiana