

Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
S. Lee County Advisory Council

**Purpose**

The South Lee County Advisory Council to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, (hereafter referred to as the “S. Lee Advisory Council”) is a sub-committee of the Board of Directors of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, whose purpose is to advise the Conservancy of Southwest Florida (hereafter Conservancy) regarding environmental and policy issues which affect the residents of Estero and Bonita Springs, as well as to work with the Conservancy to develop courses of action to best address such environmental concerns. The S. Lee Advisory Council will also act as an organizing force to assemble support for necessary legislative or legal actions and to promote the work of the Conservancy. The Conservancy will use its technical skills and influence to address issues of concern to the residents of south Lee County.

**Function**

The S. Lee Advisory Council consists of community leaders from Estero, FL and Bonita Springs, FL. These leaders come from a wide range of disciplines and unique perspectives. They act in partnership with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to “protect Southwest Florida’s unique natural environment and quality of life...now and forever” and to assist the work of the Conservancy in southern Lee County. To do this, S. Lee Advisory Council members inform the Conservancy staff, board and management of environmental issues affecting S. Lee County. The S. Lee Advisory Council members act as ambassadors to make the Conservancy’s positions known in their communities and to develop support for necessary policies.

**Participation**

Two of the Conservancy’s core values are “solution seeking” and “open and informed debate.” To that end, the S. Lee Advisory Council seeks to maintain all discussions within an open atmosphere, looking for input from all Council members equally. All discussions will focus on finding solutions to issues or in determining the Conservancy’s course of action.

At a minimum, the Conservancy has one staff or manager present for each S. Lee Advisory Council meeting. The Conservancy values the input of the S. Lee Advisory Council and although the Conservancy will not be bound legally or professionally by its recommendations, the Conservancy will take all suggestions under serious advisement.

Formal recommendations to the Conservancy require a vote with a minimum of two thirds majority support of the Council.

## **Membership**

At any given time, there are no more than twenty members of the S. Lee Advisory Council and no fewer than four. All members of the Council will maintain an active membership in the Conservancy. Members are nominated by current Council members of and approved by a majority of the Council at the following meeting. Membership is voluntary and Council members shall serve for a term of two years.

## **Subject Matter Experts**

The Conservancy provides subject matter experts to the Council when possible. These experts will render technical opinions and will offer expert and background information when feasible.

## **Meeting schedule**

The S. Lee Advisory Council meet at least once per quarter. The Council may also meet at the call of the Chair as-needed on urgent issues.

## **Relationship to Other Groups**

The S. Lee Advisory Council is a subcommittee of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Board of Directors. As an advisory body, recommendations of the S. Lee Advisory Council are advisory and subject to approval, modification or rejection by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Board of Directors.

The S. Lee Advisory Council shall represent the interests of residents of S. Lee County and will provide input both to the Board and to the Conservancy Environmental Affairs Committee (CEAC) which provides input to the Board regarding environmental issues in Southwest Florida. The CEAC makes formal recommendations to the Board of Directors. The CEAC will then report back to the S. Lee Advisory Council regarding courses of action.

The Council may designate one of its members to serve on the CEAC. The Council is encouraged to designate a member to attend Conservancy Board meetings.