John C. Callaghan has served as executive director of the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD) since April 2019. Prior to joining HRBRRD, Mr. Callaghan had been employed by the NYS Canal Corporation, where he held various positions over two decades including tug captain, traffic agent, special assistant, director of policy implementation and planning, deputy director, acting executive deputy director and acting director.

A veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Mr. Callaghan's career in state government also included service with the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission and the New York State Museum. He has also worked in the private sector assisting clients with government affairs, waterway logistics and management, planning, and vessel operation.

Mr. Callaghan graduated from Southern Vermont College in Bennington, VT with a B.A. in Creative Writing and Literature. He is a recipient of the Canal Society of New York State's "Spirit of the Canal" award and has served on the boards of Canal New York, Waterford Maritime Historical Society, State Council on Waterways, Empire State Maritime Alliance, and the Village of Waterford Zoning Board of Appeals. He resides in Waterford, NY with his wife Jennifer and their children.