

Ernie Marks

Executive Director

Ernie Marks became Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District in August 2017. He assumes this leadership role with more than 20 years of public service in natural resource management, with more than half concentrated on restoration of America's Everglades.

Marks started his tenure at the District in March 2016 as Director of Everglades Policy and Coordination, bringing extensive knowledge of Everglades restoration and water resource issues to the agency. Before joining the District, he served as the South Florida Regional Director for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He previously worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as Director of the Office of Ecosystem Projects and as a regulatory manager.

A Massachusetts native who now resides in Martin County, Marks earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management from the University of Rhode Island.

As executive director of the state's largest water management agency, Marks leads the District in carrying out its mission to balance and improve flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems across the region. Under his direction, the agency provides flood protection to South Florida through one of the largest water management systems in the world; works with utilities and stakeholders to develop long-term water supply plans; and is implementing landmark restoration strategies to improve water quality, expand water storage and restore more natural flows to the Everglades.