



Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM



OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Saturday, 10 August 2019

Key West Bight Management District Board
510 Greene Street
Key West, FL 33040

Subj: 2019-07 KWBB Schooner Western Union Restoration Progress Report

As described in the letter previously forwarded to the Board restoration work on the Schooner Western Union has largely halted due to a lack of funding.

- A. The schooner remains in the water tied up against the pier in the Marpro boatyard in Tarpon Springs. Her keel and hull are strong and sound and there is only the very minor leakage that all wooden boats experience which is handled by pumps.
- B. Our Captain Lenn Verreau is still onsite at the yard and carrying out minor repairs and making sure the schooner is protected from the elements as much as possible. The yard is providing power to run the pumps on the vessel.
- C. Due to a loan from HTA we were able to bring our account with the boatyard current and have the lien lifted that the boatyard had filed on the schooner.
- D. After discussions with the Florida Department of State officials, who manage our State grant, they have agreed to recast their grant as for only the first phase of the restoration thereby allowing us to certify that the first phase is complete. This will allow the State to release the remaining \$125,000 of the grant. The check is expected by the end of August.
- E. Due to these changes in our finances, *i.e.*, the HTA loan and the release of grant funds, we are planning to tow the schooner back to Key West and continue work here. The schedule will depend on logistics and weather windows. We will also pursue additional opportunities for grants and other support more likely with the schooner in her home port.
- F. If you have questions or I can provide additional information, please let me know.

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On behalf of the BOD,

John Dolan-Heitlinger

Copy: Melinda Stewart, CKW Deputy City Clerk
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Florida's Historic Sailing Maritime Museum