



Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM



OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Friday, 1 November 2019

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

Subj: 2019-10 KWBB Schooner Western Union Restoration Progress Report

Restoration work on the Schooner Western Union has paused while we prepare to return the schooner to the 3D boatyard on Stock Island.

- A. The schooner remains in the water tied up against the pier in the Marpro boatyard in Tarpon Springs. Her keel and hull are secure and sound, and there is only the minor leakage that all wooden boats experience, which is handled by pumps.
- B. We are waiting for the State of Florida to issue the final disbursement of \$125,000 from our original \$500,000 grant. Due to lengthy State processes, we now expect to receive the check by the end of November.
- C. We are prepared to return the schooner to Key West. Preparations include having Marine Surveyor Reef Perkins write a Trip In Tow Survey, required by our insurance company, Tow Boat US, and the Coast Guard. All equipment and materials have been picked up and transported to Key West. The schooner's hull structure has been strengthened, and a steel towing structure has been fabricated and connected. The tow schedule will depend on weather windows and is expected to be before the end of November.
- D. We are searching for additional opportunities for grants and other support which we believe are more likely with the schooner in her home port.
- E. 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