



Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM



OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Tuesday, 3 December 2019

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

Subj: 2019-11 KWBB Schooner Western Union Restoration Progress Report

The Schooner Western Union has returned to the Keys and she is safely berthed at the 3D boatyard on Stock Island.

- A. The Schooner's keel and hull are secure and relatively sound. There is a modest leak in the forward part of the hull that may have been caused by the long tow. Automated pumps are monitoring the water level and pumping the water out. The hull will be patched in the next few days.
- B. We are still waiting for the State of Florida to issue the final disbursement of \$125,000 from our original \$500,000 State grant. Due to lengthy State processes, we now expect to receive the check in the next couple of weeks.
- C. Initial contacts have been made with local Coast Guard inspectors.
- D. We have determined that, with the vessel's substantially reduced weight, due to the removal of the masts, rigging, ballast lead, etc., we will be able to haul out the Schooner at Robbie's Marina. This haulout will facilitate the bottom repairs that remain to be completed.
- E. We are developing plans for this next stage of the restoration and meeting with potential shipwrights.
- F. We are also researching additional opportunities for grants and other support which we may be more likely with the Schooner in her home port.
- G. 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