



Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM

OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Wednesday, 3 April 2019

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

Subj: 2019-03 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. The schooner and stored spars and other materials have been covered and secured.
- 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. We are contacting previous funders and hope for additional funding.
- D. State Senator Anitere Flores and Representative Holly Raschein have filed bills for a special appropriation for \$1.3 million from the Florida State Department. We are waiting to hear whether it is included in the final budget.
- E. John Dolan-Heitlinger and Harold Burnham, a noted wooden boat shipwright, visited and inspected the schooner in Tarpon Springs and Mr. Burnham is writing a Preservation Plan for the schooner. We have undertaken a short term fundraising campaign to pay for Harold Burnham's report.
- F. The Marpro boatyard has filed a lien to collect unpaid invoices. Our attorney is reviewing it and developing our response.

If you have questions or would like additional information please let me know.

On behalf of the BOD,

John Dolan-Heitlinger

Copy: Sue Harrison, CKW Sr. Deputy City Clerk
Mari Lindsley, CKW Deputy City Clerk
Doug Bradshaw, CKW Port and Marina Services Director
SWUPS Board of Directors

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