



Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM



OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Saturday, 1 September 2024

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

Subj: 2024-08 KWBB Schooner Western Union Restoration Progress Report

On 9 April 2020, the Schooner Western Union was hauled out and safely placed on the hard at Robbie's Marina on Stock Island.

- A. The Schooner is towards the back of Robbie's marina, with its stern facing the water, supported by heavy timbers and boat stands. Robbie's management will allow her to remain at Robbie's and be worked on for no charge.
- B. Plans for the restoration are on hold, and we are waiting for firmer commitments of additional funds.
- C. We are researching opportunities for grants and other support. The shipwright Harold Burnham from Exeter, Massachusetts, has provided us with a detailed breakdown of the restoration plan he developed for us. Eric Graves, a shipwright from Maine, recently visited and will send us his estimates of what it will take to execute the restoration.
- D. The boatyard has covered the boat with tarps to reduce further deterioration. We will carry out some modest strengthening of the deck to make working on the vessel safer.
- E. We are contacting a professional fundraiser for new estimates of the size and likelihood of success of a new restoration fundraising effort. We will provide more information on this initiative as we make progress.
- F. If I can provide additional information, please let me know.

On behalf of the BOD,

John Dolan-Heitlinger

Copy: Steve McAlearney CKW Port and Marina Services Director
SWUPS Board of Directors

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