



# Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM



OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Wednesday, 3 January 2024

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

Subj: 2023-12 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. We are trying several equipment combinations to keep the Schooner regularly washed down with seawater to preserve the vessel's wood. Plans for the restoration are on hold, waiting for firmer commitments of additional funds.
- C. We are researching opportunities for grants and other support. The Exeter, Massachusetts shipwright Harold Burnham has provided us with a detailed breakdown of the restoration plan he developed for us.
- D. We still have a commitment of \$1 million for the Schooner's restoration if we can put together a plan to raise another \$5 million to complete the restoration of the Schooner. We will provide more information on this initiative as we make progress.
- E. We will be having our next SWUPS board meeting next month. If there are items you would like for us to discuss, please let me know.
- 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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