



# Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM

OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Sunday, 5 January 2025

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

Subj: 2025-12 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 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, visited and will send us his estimates of what it will take to execute the restoration.
- C. 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.
- D. Cristian Swanson has moved several tons of SWU lead and parts from Steven Henson's property to Cristian's yard.
- 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. We have a commitment of \$2 million from HTA for the Schooner's restoration and continue to seek more support.
- G. 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