



Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM



OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



Thursday, 3 October 2022

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

Subj: 2022-10 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. We are developing plans for this next stage of the restoration and meeting with potential shipwrights.
- 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. Recently we were contacted by a potential donor who indicated that they are willing to donate \$1 million for the Schooner's restoration if we can put together a plan to raise another \$4 million to complete the restoration of the Schooner. We are in the process of assembling this fundraising plan. We will provide more information on this initiative as we make progress.
- E. The rain from Hurricane Ian had little effect on the Schooner due to the steps we had taken to close up the deck. However, the keel support structure of concrete blocks and jacks under the stern was partially washed away. The vessel has been moved by Robbie's to a more secure location, and the structure of jacks and timbers has been reinstalled.
- 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

Board of Directors

John Dolan-Heitlinger
*Chairman
& Treasurer*

Donald E. Yates
Attorney

Pat Carney
At Large

Craig Cates
At Large

Sherri Hodies
At Large

Guy de Boer
Past President/Chair

Maryann Barry
At Large

Edwin O. Swift, III
At Large

Cori Convertito
Historian

Former Directors

Richard Manley

William M. Barry

Frank Holden

John Jones