Tech and Innovation focus group notes August 22

Biggest success in past three years:

Pitched at idea jam

New vacuum distillation gin

Brainstorming get rich quick schemes, rowing club idea, prototyping process

Success in aligning with Brattleboro on hemp – focal point tends to be Chittenden County – we had overwhelming positive experience and gratitude working with BDCC – one of several companies coming to SoVermont – choice between infrastructure was between Brattleboro and WRJ – infrastructure was transportation

Visibility in downtown, relationship with hospital, like to see us working with innovators and researchers

New certificate in food science can build certificates to meet need

Ability to bring the tofu zone north for classes (5 colleges)

Funding to hire lighting jar staffing

400% increase in viewership for community media News Project

TAM relationship with SWVMC – hospital used UVM to flesh out project with compost and hot water

CNC collaborative training program

Challenges in front of you:

Ramping up hemp processing production because the people who can help solve the technical and instrumental challenges are not here. We need to stay in front of innovation and access knowledge networks. We need scientists and biz development and help breaking down barriers between marijuana and medical hemp.

Act 250 issues, Act 200 issued better land use guidelines

City water – moving from 3K to 13K – looking at contract work for others, people production

Workforce and buildings – buildings are either more then 40sf or too expensive – could lease in Troy for 3.50 a sf

Sustainable revenue – lots of overqualified production candidates and a mismatch with with opportunity – is this an asset that is here and needs to be better leveraged? New media? Cable industry is going away and not sure public access will survive

Knowledge based network regarding entrepreneurs nd who has capacity various elelements of the network. Connecting with CNC programs at CCV

Shared PR access