

# Erosion forcing move of homes

By Karyn Spencer

The Forum

Three rural Clay County homes will be purchased and moved off of an eroding riverbank south of Moorhead.

The homes are owned by Robert Bulik, Aaron Longtine and Dan Paulson in the Crestwood subdivision along the Red River three miles south of Moorhead.

The riverbank has been collapsing, inching closer and closer to the houses. Any solutions to the erosion problems would be more expensive than the homes.

The state Legislature approved \$500,000 for the buyout program this spring. The Department of

Trade and Economic Development will cover any additional expenses.

The houses were appraised at \$544,000, county planning director Tim Magnusson said Tuesday.

The county will buy the homes, then sell them after advertising for sealed bids.

The winning bidders will pay the house moving costs.

Another \$15,000 will be needed to demolish the basements and smooth the land once the houses are removed, Magnusson said.

The county will own the property and won't allow new construction there, much like flood buyout property, Magnusson said.

The county board also approved hiring two private lawyers to help

the county attorney's office.

Two assistant attorneys have resigned, leaving three attorneys to handle the entire caseload.

Tom Martin, a former Moorhead city prosecutor, will work 10 hours a week. Bev Adams, who left her job as assistant county attorney last week, will handle certain social services and civil cases she had been assigned. She took a job with a private law firm in Fargo.

Gary Annear, a former federal prosecutor, will continue to volunteer his time three days a week.

County attorney Todd Webb said he hopes to fill the two vacancies by Labor Day. Candidates must apply by July 17.

